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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## STAR WARS

Trump proposes military space force

By SETH BORENSTEIN AND KEN THOMAS  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — America should create its own separate military space force, President Donald Trump mentioned in an offhand remark Tuesday that would change the course of U.S. space policy.

But don't expect Captain Kirk ordering phasers set on stun, *Battlestar Galactica* or ray guns blazing in orbit in the near future, space experts said. And some said a military space force may make it harder to keep Earth's orbit a place of peace.

SEE STAR ON PAGE 6

Stars appear to swirl around a reminder of America's heritage in space at the park on Cape Canaveral, Fla. President Donald Trump seeks to strengthen military space policy, but others are worried about militarizing the expanses beyond Earth.

DAVID SALANTINI  
Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force



## Parents say military ignored boy's abuse of girls on base

By REESE DUNKLIN  
AND JUSTIN PRITCHARD  
*Associated Press*

Three military fathers sat at the commander's conference table, pleading for help, after their daughters told them they'd been sexually assaulted by a boy in their first-grade class at the U.S. Army base school in Germany.

The principal had known about the boy's behavior for months, they said, but the abuse continued.

The girls' parents had turned to military police, child-abuse authorities and sex-assault specialists. The response

was always the same, they said: Sorry this has happened, there's nothing we can do.

"It gives us a sense of hopelessness," one of the fathers, a soldier, said. "We can only do so much as parents."

Tens of thousands of children and teenagers live and attend school on U.S. military bases while their parents serve the country. Yet if they are sexually violated by a classmate, a neighborhood kid or a sibling, they often get lost in a legal and bureaucratic netherworld.

Because the children are civilians, military law doesn't apply. The federal legal system that typically enforces ci-

vilian law on base, though, isn't equipped or inclined to prosecute juveniles. The Defense Department's education system affords them fewer protections than public schools if they are sexually attacked by a classmate on campus.

The Pentagon's response to addressing these child-on-child assaults stands in contrast to how it cracked down on sexual violence in the ranks more than a decade ago, following congressional scrutiny.

"If this would have been a soldier, things would have happened much differently," the soldier's wife said.

SEE ABUSE ON PAGE 2

# MILITARY

## Abuse: Parents claim principal didn't tell them about allegations of assault

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Associated Press does not name sex assault victims without consent and extended that anonymity to three sets of parents who agreed to speak on the record. What happened at the German base school is further documented in sworn statements by the soldier, as well as other military records.

In late July 2015, the soldier's wife said she discovered their daughter was sexually assaulted at Grafenwoehr Elementary School during the school year that had just ended. She said her daughter told her the boy had similarly violated at least five other girls.

Days later, she said, she learned from another family that the school had already known about the boy's sexual aggression. The family told her that the principal called them months earlier to say the boy sexually touched their daughter. That little girl also said the boy had targeted other first-graders, including the soldier's daughter, and the family said it shared the information with the

principal.

But neither the principal nor his staff notified any of the girls' parents about the possible assaults, several families told AP. When the soldier and his wife met with the principal in early August, he

**'The one place you can feel safe with your child going is school, and then you can't even trust school.'**

**A victim's mother**

insisted he had contacted the parents of every girl named and their daughter wasn't among them, they recalled. "The one place you can feel safe with your child going is school," one of the mothers said, "and then you can't even trust school."

The assaults at Grafenwoehr Elementary were among more than 150 that weren't disclosed in a "serious incident" report to the Pentagon's school system headquarters, the AP found. Sexual attacks among the system's 71,000 students are supposed to be reported, but officials wouldn't explain why Grafenwoehr was missing.

The Pentagon also wouldn't allow the principal to speak with the AP, and he did not respond to direct requests for comment. The school system — known as the De-



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

**A mother whose daughter said she was sexually assaulted during first grade by a classmate at Grafenwoehr Elementary School, which is on a U.S. military base in Germany, stands in her daughter's bedroom at their new home in Colorado. The family was one of several who said the principal did not tell them about allegations their daughters were sexually assaulted.**

partment of Defense Education Activity, or DODEA — said an investigation eventually showed Grafenwoehr Elementary's staff "took the appropriate actions to best meet the needs of all students involved."

AP began investigating sex abuse among military children and teens after readers of its 2017 investigation about student assaults in U.S. public schools reported even more complicated problems on bases.

When students are sexually assaulted in American public schools, they have legal protections under Title IX, a federal law that bans gender discrimination in schools that receive

federal funding. An executive order in 2000 attempted to hold federal education programs, such as those run by the Pentagon, to "took the appropriate actions to best meet the needs of all students the right to sue for damages or request outside investigations — the leverage often needed to get action."

The girls' parents also tried to seek help from two military support offices, Army criminal investigators and even the base commander. But, they said, they were told that nothing could be done because their daughters had been abused by another child or that it was a school matter.

Months after AP began questioning the school system's han-

dling of student sex assaults, officials said they were developing new rules and guidance for reporting and responding to such violence. Officials also said the system had appointed additional staff to advise families on their rights and available resources, among other reforms.

Looking back, the soldier's wife said it was disheartening to know military children have so few protections. She and her husband have pressed on for the sake of her daughter and others like her.

"I don't want another family to have to deal with this," she said.

### Correction

A story in the March 14 editions of Stars and Stripes gave the incorrect name for Capt. Natalie Poggenmeyer, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit spokeswoman.

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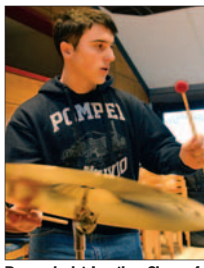
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## EUROPE



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The DODEA-Europe Honors Band rehearses Tuesday under the direction of guest conductor Damon Talley at the Honors Music Festival. Nearly 150 singers and musicians representing 17 high schools participated in this year's weeklong event.



Percussionist Jonathan Ciero, of Ramstein, hits the cymbal during rehearsal Tuesday.



Abby Ward and Emily Thompson, flautists with the DODEA-Europe Honors Band, rehearse Tuesday.

## Students gather for the love of music

By DAN STOUTAMIRE  
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Nearly 150 high school students from 17 DODEA-Europe schools have gathered in a cozy hostel on a bluff overlooking the Rhine River in Oberwesel, Germany, for one reason — to make beautiful music in a beautiful place.

"This is probably the nicest backdrop for rehearsals that I've ever had," said Damon Talley, director of bands at Louisiana State University, who was brought in by DODEA to fine-tune the 69-member band. "We all have this singular love for music and we come together for a few days and get a chance to express it together."

The 2018 Honors Music Festival is a chance for music-loving students to learn from and interact with others who share their passion, even if only for a week. The festival comprises three days of intense rehearsals before a concert at the hostel at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

The concert will be livestreamed on the DODEA-Europe YouTube page at <http://bit.ly/2DrhXtL>. "My favorite part about here is that 80 kids from all over are able

Hear a sample of the music, interviews as the student musicians prepare for Thursday's concert:

[www.strips.com/go/music](http://www.strips.com/go/music)

to sing in one room, wanting to sing their hearts out. That's truly inspiring," said Arnold Castro, a senior choir member from Lakeland. "The different cultures, even among different American kids, it opens your eyes and you see how small your world is just on one little base."

The 79-member choir, comprising tenor, bass, soprano and alto vocalists, will be singing a wide array of pieces, including gospel, Latin American merengue, classical and baroque, as well as more contemporary music.

On Tuesday, students were gathered around guest choir leader Jose Rivera, from the University of North Carolina-Pembroke, soaking in his knowledge before bursting into the upbeat "He'll Make a Way" by Byron Smith and the folksy "Let the River Run" by Carly Simon.

"We've focused a lot on vocal technique and making music with their voices, listening skills, stylistic abilities and skills as well," Rivera said. "There are some

things that happen in a choir like this that they can't replicate in their own schools because of the number of students here."

Down the hall from the hive of activity in the choir rehearsal, members of the band practiced their own concert pieces. It's demanding work, with only a lunch break between hours of practice, but students are enjoying the extra repetitions.

"It's wonderful to be able to just focus on music for a week, to hone those skills," said Rachel Weyland, a senior trumpeter from Spangdahlem who has attended the festival for all four years of high school. "Granted, my face muscles tend to hurt after a week, but it's totally worth it."

Even students new to the program are, after initial fears, taking to the music-intensive week. "It was kind of intimidating at first because I've never played with a huge band before, but it's been really fun these past couple days," said Emily Thompson, a freshman flautist from Stuttgart. "It is fun just to take a break from school and meet a lot of new people here who all share a passion for music."

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## Special ops to get a boost in Baltics

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Pentagon intends to spend more than \$15 million to improve working conditions for special operations forces on missions in the Baltics, where elite U.S. troops have been a quiet but steady presence in recent years.

The Pentagon's 2019 budget calls for establishing new operations and training facilities in Estonia, one of NATO's smallest and most exposed member states that shares a border with Russia.

"The facilities essentially provide administrative and logistics space to enable our SOF to continue conducting bilateral training with our allies," said Maj. Michael Weisman, Special Operations Command Europe spokesman.

Since 2014, SOCEUR has had forces working with allies in the Baltics to help bolster local militaries. With no end in sight to a broader U.S. military campaign to reinforce NATO's eastern flank, officials said there was a need for upgrades for the special operators. The facilities, which serve as a small base of operations in Baltics, are on an undisclosed Estonian military site.

Unlike other U.S. military efforts in the region, the military

offers few details about what its special operations troops are up to beyond general statements about working with allies. SOCEUR declined to say how many of its troops are currently in the Baltics, and details of the training are generally not available.

The ongoing Operation Atlantic Resolve — a mission to deter a resurgent Russia and reassure allies in the region — has resulted in billions of dollars made available for exercises and infrastructure upgrades in NATO member states located along Russia's periphery. Funding for SOCEUR adds up to a sliver of the overall European Deterrent Initiative, which pays for the operations.

For example, the Army is slated to get about \$144 million to upgrade weapons depots, staging sites and logistics networks in Poland, which has emerged as a regional hub for U.S. Army Europe.

The upgrade for SOCEUR's forces in the Baltics is a sign that those troops could be in the region for the long haul.

"The facilities referenced in the FY19 budget are small operational facilities to support our continuing deployment to Estonia as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve," Weisman said.

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## German city council opposes new Stuttgart-area commissary

By JOHN VANDIVER  
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Members of a local government council are resisting a U.S. plan to build a new commissary in the Stuttgart area, citing concerns about increased traffic.

The Army wants to spend \$40 million to construct a grocery store on Panzer Kaserne, the headquarters for the U.S. Army's Stuttgart garrison.

Work on the project, which will consolidate four commissaries in the Stuttgart military community into one, is slated to be completed by 2021.

"We are aware of the lower local town council's desire to delay the construction of the commissary at Panzer Kaserne, and as of today, the project will continue as planned," Larry Reilly, Stuttgart garrison spokesman, said in a statement. "We will work with local officials if we receive notice of a change in the construction timelines."

However, in a sign of tension between the Army and officials in the suburban Stuttgart town of Boeblingen, local council members are recommending that the project be vetoed over noise and traffic concerns.

It's not clear yet whether local opposition will have any bearing on upcoming construction plans. Earlier this month, a Boeblingen City Council subcommittee voted that the town should recommend the project be rejected. The full City Council will vote on that recommendation later this month.

If the veto recommendation is approved it then goes to the German Ministry of Defense, which has the final say.

Government officials in Boeblingen say they want a study that examines the impact of a new commissary, including measuring for noise and increased traffic flow in and out of Panzer Kaserne.

Christof Hemmingner, a manager of the regional government's construction office, declined to speculate whether a potential noise and traffic impact study would force the project to be delayed.

In Boeblingen, the commissary is the latest point of contention with the community. For more than 10 years, some residents have complained about gunfire at a base shooting range, though Army officials have installed sound buffers and taken other steps to mitigate the noise.

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## MILITARY

Air Force:  
Japanese  
lake clear of  
jet debris

By TYLER HLAVAC  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
Stars and Stripes

Navy divers have recovered all salvageable debris after an emergency forced a fighter jet to drop its fuel tanks into a Japanese lake last month.

The F-16 from Misawa Air Base 35th Fighter Wing jettisoned the tanks into Lake Ogawara on Feb. 20 after its engine caught fire shortly after takeoff. The aircraft landed safely and there were no injuries.

Japanese sailors initiated the cleanup but turned things over to the Air Force, which is in the final phase of the operation.

Testing conducted March 8-13 showed no fuel from the tanks in the lake, although detection efforts continue, an Air Force statement said.

"We are committed to performing our mission in an environmentally responsible manner, and we will continue to work with the local community to ensure Lake Ogawara remains safe for fishing and other endeavors," 35th Fighter Wing commander Col. Scott



JARROD VICKERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**U.S. and Japanese servicemembers clean up Lake Ogawara near Misawa Air Base, Japan, earlier this month after an F-16 jettisoned its fuel tanks because of an emergency.**

Jobe said in the statement.

U.S. forces had recovered about 94 percent of the tank parts as of March 2, a Tohoku Defense Bureau spokesman said on March 8. Surveys conducted on water, dirt and fish from the lake showed no contamination.

Parts of the lake are frozen and can't be tested. However, U.S. personnel and local fishermen are breaking ice to encourage faster melting and allow testing, the Defense Bureau spokesman said.

Fishing in the lake has been banned since the incident. Local fishermen, who say they're los-

ing \$37,000 a day because it's the height of freshwater shellfish season, are seeking compensation that would likely be paid by both the U.S. and Japanese governments, the Defense Bureau spokesman said.

The cause of the incident is under investigation, the Air Force said.

"The safety of our Airmen and our Japanese neighbors is our number one priority during flying operations," Jobe said. "We will conduct a thorough investigation to determine the root cause of this incident."

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AAFES to resume sales  
of high-capacity ammo

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

**WASHINGTON** — On-post military exchanges will soon restock high-capacity ammunition magazines, reversing a recent decision to discontinue selling them at installations across the United States and online, Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials said Tuesday.

Post exchanges began pulling ammunition magazines and clips holding 11 or more rounds from shelves on March 2, announcing the policy decision via signs displayed on store shelves.

Some customers blasted the decision on social media, taking to the organization's Facebook page to call for boycotts of the stores and questioning the organization's motives for the change.

Those voices were heard, said Chris Ward, a spokesman for the AAFES. The affected magazines and clips were expected to be returned to stores immediately, he said.

"We thank customers for sharing their thoughts regarding the firearms accessories stock assortment," Ward said. "Feedback from active-duty, Guard and Re-

serve soldiers and airmen highlighted the criticality of these products as it relates to readiness and proficiency."

The initial decision was not politically motivated, Ward said. Leadership of the AAFES decided initially in February to remove the magazines after a review of its stock showed it was offering different products than other military exchanges, he said. Marine Corps exchanges, for example, have not carried large capacity ammunition magazines since 2013.

The Defense Department-run AAFES includes some 2,700 department, convenience and military clothing stores on Army and Air Force installations throughout the United States and in 36 additional countries. It provides tax-free goods to servicemembers, their families and veterans, including online at shopmyexchange.com.

As of early Tuesday afternoon, the website showed high-capacity magazines remained "out of stock."

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## PACIFIC

## US, Japan hold anti-sub drills in South China Sea

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. and Japanese warships are once again conducting anti-submarine drills together, this time in the South China Sea.

The aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson and the destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer have been working alongside the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's JS Ise, a Hyuga-class helicopter destroyer, since Sunday, a Navy statement said. The warships are doing formation steaming, anti-submarine and air-defense training.

It's the second anti-submarine drill the allies have conducted this month. A Japanese destroyer, the JS Fuyuzuki, joined the USS Antietam, USS Curtis Wilbur, USS Benford and USS Mustin for anti-submarine, surface warfare and live-fire training off Guam during the annual MultiSail exercise that ended Wednesday.

In recent years, China has built artificial islands in the South China Sea, militarizing them with airstrips, ports, hangars and other military-related infrastructure. That has upset several of its neighbors — includ-

ing Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines and Vietnam — that also have maritime claims in the region.

Chinese activity in the East China Sea has been an issue for Japan. Tokyo protested to Beijing in January after a submarine, presumed to be Chinese, was detected near Okinawa and the disputed Senkaku Islands. Vice Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama expressed "great concern" over the issue and urged China not to repeat the incursion.

However, a JMSDF spokesperson said the latest anti-submarine training isn't geared toward specific incidents.

The San Diego-based Carl Vinson has been patrolling the Western Pacific since January under an initiative that sends 3rd Fleet ships into 7th Fleet waters. It made a port call in Vietnam earlier this month, a first for a U.S. carrier since the Vietnam War.

The Carl Vinson is filling in for the Japan-based USS Ronald Reagan, the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, which is undergoing maintenance at Yokosuka.

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## US transfers 6 surveillance drones to Philippine air force

BY TYLER HLAVAC  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. delivered six surveillance drones to the Philippines on Tuesday, bolstering the country's ability to respond to a growing militant threat.

The ScanEagle drones, which are worth more than \$13 million, will "increase the Philippine military's maritime domain awareness, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and counterterrorism capabilities," the U.S. Embassy in Manila said in a statement.

The drones can operate above 15,000 feet and stay airborne for 20 hours, according to manufacturer Boeing. They were first deployed to Iraq in 2004 by the Marine Corps.

The Philippine air force will fly the ScanEagles out of Antonio Bautista Air Base in Palawan province, the embassy said.

The drones, provided through the Foreign Military Financing program, are the latest American military hardware given to the Philippines as the country struggles to contain Islamic insurgents

in the south.

Last year, the U.S. provided a pair of Cessna 208B Grand Caravan intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance planes as part of \$33 million counterterrorism package.

The drones and aircraft transfers "represent our strong commitment to enhance the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," U.S. Ambassador Sung Kim said at a ceremony marking the drone handover, according to the embassy statement.

Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the delivery is a sign of the U.S. and Philippines' "goodwill, deep friendship and genuine commitment to peace," according to local media.

Analysts have warned that Islamic State, reeling from losses in Syria and Iraq, is looking to shift operations to Southeast Asia.

Last year, Filipino troops fought for five months to free the city of Marawi on the southern island of Mindanao from hundreds of militants who had sworn allegiance to Islamic State. U.S. Special Forces provided intelligence,

reconnaissance and surveillance to Filipino commanders during the campaign, according to U.S. Pacific Command.

The long-standing relationship between the U.S. military and the Philippines has continued despite a rocky relationship between the U.S. and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has insulted American leaders, curtailed joint military exercises and tried to improve his nation's relationship with China.

Last month, Duterte joked about making his country a province of China and said militarized artificial islands constructed by China in the South China Sea are intended to be used against the U.S., not the Philippines.

However, the island nation remains a popular Navy port of call. Last month, the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson stopped there for four days.

The amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard also visited this month.

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## MILITARY

# Political climate helps temper BRAC efforts

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Longtime efforts to streamline the military through the Base Realignment and Closure process are dead for now, as communities play a larger role in thwarting the moves especially in the midst of an election year, Rep. Adam Smith said Tuesday.

These communities in recent years have better mobilized to fend off BRAC for fear of seeing an economic hit, such as the loss of jobs or other concerns, said Smith, D-Wash., and the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee.

He said it's likely why President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis didn't push for such reforms in this year's military budget proposals.

"Very small groups of interest have developed an enormous amount of power to stop things from happening that they don't want to happen. So BRAC has become more difficult because communities have organized more strongly to try and prevent it," Smith told an audience at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank in Washington, D.C.

With several failed BRAC votes on Cap-

**‘BRAC has become more difficult because communities have organized more strongly to try and prevent it.’**

Rep. Adam Smith  
D-Wash.

itol Hill in recent years, Smith said he suspected "Secretary Mattis and President Trump did not want to tilt at this particular windmill this year.... it's proven to be very difficult politically to accomplish."

Last month, the Pentagon released a 2019 budget plan seeking a 10 percent hike in funding to \$686.1 billion to increase the size and might of the military. But the plan was largely absent of traditional spending reforms, such as BRAC or management restructuring, and could add to a ballooning U.S. deficit along the way.

"It's a lot more fun to spend money than it is to reduce," Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said last month during a Senate hearing. "It's incumbent upon all of us to start making difficult decisions to decide together as a legislature,

as an administration, are these deficits that we are willing to tolerate?"

The effort to rein in wasteful spending through the BRAC process has been upended in a heightened political environment, Smith said. One potential option is giving the Pentagon more flexibility to move assets and shut down some facilities through new legislation, the congressman said.

"Most people have surrendered on the idea of getting another BRAC round anytime soon," he said. But "the military is particularly hamstrung right now in their ability to move assets."

Smith teamed up with Christopher Preble, the Cato Institute's vice president for defense and foreign policy studies, to tackle the BRAC issue in a new piece for Strategic Studies Quarterly. Preble argued

Wednesday that there are several models of successful BRAC efforts that have helped revitalize communities.

For example, Preble pointed to the 1990s BRAC effort in Austin, Texas, which led to the opening of the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The city, strained by a fast-growing population and limited space, converted the former Bergstrom Air Force Base to a much-needed new airport close to its center.

Today, the city's airport is a jewel to its technology and tourism sectors, as it now hosts a long list of annual events, from the South by Southwest festival to its Circuit of the Americas racetrack.

"The closure of the Air Force base solved the problem for the city of Austin," Preble said. "I think you would find very few people in Austin who would look back at that in a negative light."

That said, each case is unique and different, he said. There's more pushback against base closures in smaller communities where the economic picture appears more precarious.

"Location matters a lot," Preble said.

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## Star: Air Force handles space program for US military

FROM FRONT PAGE

Saying his national security strategy "recognizes that space is a war-fighting domain, just like the land, air and sea," Trump said at a San Diego Marine Corps base that he's considering "a space force" that would be the equivalent of the Air Force, Army and Navy.

Trump said at first he wasn't serious when he floated the concept, but "then I said what a great idea, maybe we'll have to do that."

This is more about boosting reconnaissance and cybersecurity than fighting in orbit, said Sean O'Keefe, who was both NASA administrator and Navy secretary under President George W. Bush.

Trump's own defense secretary and Air Force secretary argued vociferously against it when members of Congress pushed it last year, O'Keefe said. You can emphasize more help for the military in space without going to the massive organizational change and expense, he said.

It could be a bureaucratic nightmare, said O'Keefe, a professor at Syracuse University.

He said some people may argue that a space force would "compromise the sanctity of considering space to be off limits from warfare."

Ever since the Space Age started with the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik, there has been a military and national security aspect to space, even though there are treaties and a United Nations committee that explicitly talk about keeping space a place of peace. In the 1950s, President Dwight Eisenhower established two space programs — a civilian one that became NASA, and a military one. NASA is much more public, but the military program

is just as big.

The military space program has mostly been led by the Air Force. For the past several years, the military has been flying an unmanned space plane, a lot like the retired civilian space shuttle but smaller, experts said.

"It's really what we're already doing but giving elevated status to the mission,"

**‘It's really what we're already doing but giving elevated status to the mission.’**

Howard  
McCurdy  
American  
University space  
expert

because it found that robotic space efforts were more effective and efficient, McCurdy said.

McCurdy, O'Keefe and others said any space force would probably consist of cadets on the ground operating robotic systems in space.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology astronautics professor and former NASA deputy administrator Dava Newman said she prefers space to be as peaceful as possible.

"Space is for exploration and lifting up humanity," Newman said. "We should learn from our mistakes on Earth and keep space peaceful."



MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Heidi Murkoff, author of the "What to Expect" series of books, plays with a baby and talks with new moms Wednesday at the Special Delivery baby shower event, at Grafenwoehr, Germany.

## Baby shower held to honor expecting soldiers, spouses

By MARTIN EGNASH  
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — More than 120 expectant mothers and new moms celebrated a giant baby shower Wednesday with the author of the popular "What to Expect" series of pregnancy books.

The pregnant soldiers, spouses and new moms celebrated by playing games, having lunch, and receiving lots of prizes paid for by the USO, Target Corp. and What

to Expect.

Heidi Murkoff, author of "What to Expect When You're Expecting" and its sequels, signed books and answered questions for the crowd of military mothers. She said the main reason why she helped with this event was to introduce the new moms to each other. "Being pregnant in the best of circumstances is hard work, but doing it overseas makes it even harder," Murkoff said. "I think the most important thing for these amazing women is to

find others who are going through the same situation."

She said she believes military moms have one of the toughest jobs around.

"Can you imagine being pregnant overseas, being away from your family and giving birth at a hospital where you don't speak the language?" Murkoff asked. "Every mom deserves to be celebrated, but nobody deserves it more than these women."

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## MILITARY

### Navy's Red Hill study concerns environmental regulators

BY AUDREY McAVOY  
Associated Press

HONOLULU — A Navy analysis may underestimate the contamination potential of leaks from giant fuel tanks near Pearl Harbor, environmental regulators said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Health sent a letter to the Navy last month outlining their concerns about the Navy's work.

The Navy has 20 underground fuel storage tanks dating to World War II in the hills above Pearl Harbor. The tanks sit on an aquifer that supplies a quarter of the water consumed in urban Honolulu.

More than 27,000 gallons leaked from one of the tanks in 2014.

The Navy and regulatory agencies are working on a 20-year plan to reduce the risk of leaks and fuel contamination from the tanks. The plan includes evaluating new tank designs and potentially storing the fuel someplace other than Red Hill.

The letter, posted on the EPA's website, said the Navy and its consultants appear to be prematurely drawing conclusions about a model predicting groundwater flow and the movement of contaminants.

They included another letter from a consultant saying the Navy's evaluation "seems to be skewed" toward concluding that millions of gallons of jet fuel could be released without damaging the groundwater.

The consultant said the Navy doesn't seem to be taking the risks posed by fuel leaks into account to the same degree.

Rear Adm. Brian Fort, commander of Navy Region Hawaii, said the Navy is committed to working with regulators to continue a thorough study of the underground water at Red Hill.

"We have not and will not rush to judgment or conclusions, and we will continue to keep the drinking water safe, no matter what," Fort said in an emailed statement. He said there's much more work to do in studying, analyzing and implementing the right initiatives.

The regulators' letter to the Navy said models for groundwater flow and contaminants should be "reliable tools" that support key decisions as the parties decide how to protect against further leaks. The letter said models that are "scientifically rigorous and able to withstand legitimate scrutiny" will help the parties make decisions.

Marti Townsend, director of the Sierra Club of Hawaii, called on lawmakers to require the Navy to install double-walled tanks at Red Hill within five years. She said the fuel should be moved if the Navy can't fix them to meet current safety standards.

The House environment committee is scheduled to consider a bill on regulations for the Red Hill tanks at a hearing Tuesday morning.

## Low jobless rate makes recruiting for Army difficult

BY NAFEESA SYEED  
AND CHLOE WHITEAKER  
Bloomberg

The lowest unemployment rate in a decade is good news for Americans, but bad news for an expanding U.S. military.

To meet President Donald Trump's goal for a bigger military, Army recruiters are seeking 80,000 more men and women willing to join the Pentagon's largest service as deployments continue from Iraq to Afghanistan. That's 11,500 more soldiers this year than in 2017.

Working against the military is the U.S. jobless rate. Initial jobless claims were at the lowest in almost five decades last month. The U.S. economy added 313,000 jobs in February, while the unemployment rate held steady at 4.1 percent. Though the Pentagon has managed to meet its recruit-

ing targets in recent years, unemployment rates below 6 percent — the norm since late 2014 — are seen as a key factor undermining those efforts.

To meet Trump's goals, the Army has added 400 recruiters to the 9,000-strong force it already employs. Hundreds of millions more dollars are also going toward offering perks to lure recruits. There's even a "quick-ship bonus" for those willing to go to basic training within a month. People ready to take on hard-to-fill jobs in engineering and cybersecurity can also get more money.

"Our recruiters are aware of the difficult environment they're working in," Kelli Bland, a spokeswoman for the Army Recruiting Command in Fort Knox, Kentucky, said in an interview. "But it's not something that we can't overcome."



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Future soldiers take the Oath of Enlistment on Nov. 12 during halftime of the Washington Redskins' Salute to Service game.**

Another challenge is lack of knowledge about the military, Bland said. Army research shows about 50 percent of youth know nothing about the military and can't name most branches. Recruiters are boosting efforts to win over "influencers," such as high school principals and teachers, who can become advocates for joining. The effort includes "educator tours" to bases, where they can climb into helicopters and talk with pilots to learn of opportunities.

Such moves follow decades of studies on how recruitment is affected by the civilian economy,

according to Beth Asch, a senior economist at Rand Corp. in Santa Monica, California, who researches military manpower.

"When the unemployment rate goes down — as it has been — military enlistment goes down as well," Asch said in an interview. "There's a positive relationship."

The pool of applicants is also shrinking. Thanks to high rates of obesity, drug use, criminal records and failing grades on the Army's aptitude test, the pool of eligible recruits is just 29 percent of the available population of 17- to 24-year-olds.



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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Special Ops raids are used to fight attacks in Kabul

By DAN LAMOTHE  
The Washington Post

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — The United States is bolstering its efforts to assist the Afghan government squash a rash of deadly high-profile attacks in its capital city through Special Operations raids, intelligence to map out who lives in the city and additional military advising, the top U.S. general here said.

Army Gen. John W. Nicholson Jr. said that defending Kabul is the main effort for the U.S.-led military coalition right now. While the number of bombings in the sprawling city has remained about the same, they have increased in size, he said. Hundreds of people have been killed within the last year, terrorizing civilians and damaging embassies and other buildings.

"Yes, the Taliban is in the city," Nicholson said. "Yes, there are facilitation networks in the city. These networks need to be identified and destroyed, and then the safe houses or whatever locations they have developed need to be identified and eliminated."

The use of secretive Special Operations forces against networks of militants has been common from the streets of Baghdad to the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. But it rarely has been discussed in the city of Kabul before. It comes as the U.S. and Afghan governments plan to build the number of Afghan special forces from 19,022 to 33,896 by 2020, according to a Pentagon report to Congress released in December.

Nicholson spoke to reporters Wednesday at the main U.S. airfield north of Kabul as Defense Secretary Jim Mattis wrapped up a two-day visit in Afghanistan. The defense secretary, who did not grant interviews to media

traveling with him Wednesday, left Bagram afterward. He arrived later in Bahrain, where he will meet with King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa and visit with U.S. troops.

Like Mattis, Nicholson sees a window open for the U.S. and Afghan governments to reach a peace deal with some members of the Taliban. He cited Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's recent invitation to the Taliban to talk without preconditions, the Taliban not rejecting it out of hand and the ongoing U.S.-led military campaign among the factors that could force a negotiated settlement.

But the attacks in Kabul must be addressed, the general said. The city, once seen as relatively safe as compared with the countryside, has been the site of some horrendous attacks over the last few years. U.S. military and intelligence officials have warned that the Taliban will continue to carry out high-profile attacks, an effort to show that the Afghan government does not have control.

The attacks include a May 2017 bombing outside the German Embassy that killed at least 150 people and damaged several buildings. More recently, a Dec. 28 bombing of a Shiite cultural center by Islamic State killed at least 50, and a Jan. 27 attack in which an ambulance packed with explosives exploded killed at least 103 people near Kabul's embassies.

The Taliban also launched coordinated attacks in January on the Intercontinental Hotel in downtown Kabul and in July on an Afghan military training academy. The hotel ambush left at least 42 people dead, and the academy attack killed 11.



IBAA NEWS AGENCY/AP

This photo released Feb. 24 by the al-Qaida-affiliated Ibaa News Agency purports to show al-Qaida-linked fighters from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or the Levant Liberation Committee, in Idlib province, Syria.

# Al-Qaida's Syrian branch is in retreat, fighting its rivals

By BASSEM MROUE  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — For the first time since its meteoric rise in 2012 amid the chaos of war, al-Qaida's branch in Syria is in retreat, battling rival militant groups in the north and fighting for survival in a key foothold near the capital, Damascus.

Over the past three weeks, the extremist group has been driven from nearly all of the northern province of Aleppo, losing dozens of fighters in battles there and in nearby Idlib province.

The fighting poses a major challenge to the militant group, already beset by infighting and a string of assassinations that have taken out some of its top leaders. Unlike in previous battles in which al-Qaida-linked fighters were able to quickly crush their opponents, the fighting has been particularly fierce, with the militants losing dozens of villages.

The al-Qaida-linked coalition known as the Levant Liberation

Committee is still one of Syria's most powerful armed groups, with fighters numbering in the thousands.

While the U.S.-led coalition and Russian-backed Syrian troops have focused on driving Islamic State from the country's east, the al-Qaida-linked group has consolidated its control over Idlib, where it remains the strongest force despite its recent losses there.

After the defeat of ISIS, al-Qaida is seen as the main jihadi group that rejects any peace talks to try to end Syria's seven-year conflict. Its presence in northern Syria and in the Damascus suburbs of eastern Ghouta has provided a pretext for President Bashar Assad and his Russian backers to wage war against opposition-held territory, since various de-escalation and cease-fire agreements have excluded al-Qaida.

Several hundred al-Qaida fighters holed up in eastern Ghouta have become a burden to the armed opposition battling government forces there, which has

pressed the extremists to leave the area for their stronghold in Idlib in order to avoid the current crushing offensive.

The group's presence has also raised concern in nations from Turkey to the United States that fear the global network founded by Osama bin Laden could use its presence in northern Syria to launch terrorist attacks around the world.

The recent fighting appears to have been triggered by last month's assassination of a senior al-Qaida official, Abu Aymen al-Masri, who was riding in a car with his wife when members of a rival militant group, Nour el-Din el-Zinki, fired on their vehicle, killing al-Masri and wounding his wife.

The killing led to battles in Aleppo and Idlib that have raged for the past three weeks.

The shooting was preceded by the merger of Nour el-Din el-Zinki and the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham, both former al-Qaida allies now turned enemies.

## US seeks to improve Syrian detention of foreign fighters

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There are ongoing U.S. efforts to improve Syrian rebels' ability to detain what has become a steadily growing number of foreign fighters in Syria, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East told Congress on Tuesday.

Army Gen. Joseph Votel, the head of U.S. Central Command, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee that the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces currently hold more than 400 detainees.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis

has been urging reluctant allies to address the escalating crisis by taking responsibility for their citizens who have been captured.

During a meeting of allied defense ministers in Rome last month, Mattis pressed them to use diplomatic, legal and other means to take back citizens detained in Syria to make sure they don't get back on the battlefield.

The subject came up again during a meeting of NATO defense ministers that followed.

"We are working with our partners in the government here to work to get them back to their countries so they can be prosecuted in accordance with their laws,"

Votel told senators Tuesday.

Asked by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., if there is a "credible" long-term plan to detain the fighters inside Syria, Votel said the U.S. is working on that now.

So far, however, those entreaties to allies have been largely unsuccessful. Officials have said that only one or two detainees have been returned to their country.

As an example, British officials made it clear they did not want to accept the return of two notorious British members of an Islamic State cell who were commonly dubbed "The Beatles" and were known for beheading hostages.

The two men — El Shafee Elsheikh and Alexandra Amon Kolsky — were captured in early January in eastern Syria and are being held by the SDF.

Belgium officials have also spoken against the return of any detainees to their country. Belgium Foreign Minister Didier Reynders has suggested that detainees be tried where they were captured.

Most of the foreign fighters are from the region, including Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Hundreds of them have fought alongside ISIS in recent years as it seized large parts of Syria, raising concerns they'll commit terrorism at home if they return.

The U.S. is mainly advising and working with the SDF and with other nongovernment organizations and the United Nations to ensure detainees get appropriate care, including food, beds and shelter from the weather.

But the U.S. military in Syria doesn't have the funding or ability to actually solve detention facility shortages.

As the number of detainees increase, U.S. officials worry that the SDF will lose either the ability or the will to continue to hold them. Doing nothing, Mattis warned the allies, is not an option.

## VETERANS

# Sources: Trump ponders replacing Shulkin

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is considering ousting embattled Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, who has faced an insurgency within his department and fresh allegations that he used a member of his security detail to run personal errands.

Trump has floated the notion of moving Energy Secretary Rick Perry to the VA to right the ship, believing Shulkin has become a distraction, according to two people familiar with White House discussions. They were not authorized to discuss internal deliberations.

However, speaking after a Senate hearing Wednesday, Perry said he's keeping his job and made a reference to reports as "fake news."

Shulkin has faced several investigations over his conduct and leadership of the department but until now has received praise from the president for his work to turn it around. The news comes after Trump fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Tuesday.

Trump has been angry with Shulkin, the official said, but is known to float staffing changes without always following through.

Shulkin did not respond to requests for comment via phone and text message. He has been holding on to his job by a thread since a bruising internal report found ethics violations in connection with his trip to Europe with his wife last summer.

The VA inspector general also is looking into a complaint by a member of Shulkin's 24-7 security detail that he was asked to accompany the secretary to a Home Depot and carry furniture items into his home, according to two



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

**Sources say President Donald Trump might replace Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, above, with Energy Secretary Rick Perry.**

people familiar with the allegation who requested anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Within the agency, a political adviser installed by Trump has openly muscled to other VA staff about ousting the former Obama administration official. And a top communications aide has taken extended leave following a secret, failed attempt to turn lawmakers against him.

"The honeymoon is ending with a crash that hurts veterans most of all," said Paul Rieckhoff, founder and CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, who has been a close observer of the VA for more than a decade. "VA always has bad news, but Shulkin's ethical and leadership failures are still significant — despite any internal attacks."

Senior administration officials describe a growing frustration that Shulkin repeatedly ignores their advice, only to beg for their

help when he runs into ethical trouble. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to describe sensitive internal discussions, said Shulkin has been given a final warning to end the swirl of distractions. The administration is currently seeking to push Trump's agenda of aggressively expanding the Veterans Choice program, which major veterans groups worry could be an unwanted step toward privatizing VA health care.

The issue came to the fore at a White House meeting last week, when chief of staff John Kelly told Shulkin to stop talking to the news media without clearing it first with the White House and to stay focused on fixing veterans care. Shulkin was escorted from that meeting to the Oval Office, where Trump questioned him about his efforts to push the Choice expansion, which lawmakers are now seeking to include in a massive

spending bill that must be approved by next week to avert a government shutdown.

With Shulkin present, the president telephoned conservative Pete Hegseth, a "Fox & Friends" contributor who was vetted in late 2016 for VA secretary, to get his views on how to proceed with the expansion. Hegseth, a former president of the conservative group Concerned Veterans for America, declined to comment for this article.

Dan Caldwell, executive director of CVA, lauded the White House focus on Choice amid the ongoing controversies involving Shulkin. "Despite the internal drama going on in the VA, which

has been a distraction, Congress has continued to work to a solution that everyone can rally around," he said.

Shulkin is blaming the internal drama on a half-dozen or so political appointees whom he had considered firing, only to be blocked by Kelly.

It wasn't always this way. Early in the administration, Shulkin was often seen at Trump's side at campaign-style events. Trump publicly teased that he probably would never be fired because he had successfully shepherd legislation to improve accountability at the VA and speed disability appeals.

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## MILITARY/NATION



Kaiserslautern High students observe a moment of silence.

# Students from overseas bases join US protest

By LEON COOK, KIM GAMEL  
AND JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

Middle and high school students at overseas military bases joined a national gun violence protest, walking out of class Wednesday in memory of peers and teachers killed, allegedly by a former classmate, in a Florida school shooting last month.

While some schools accommodated the demonstrators, one threatened students with potential punishment and referral to military police.

Organizers, who promoted the walkout on social media with the hashtag #EnoughIsEnough, encouraged students to leave class at schools all over America for 17 minutes at 10 a.m. March 14.

Due to the time difference, students on U.S. installations in the Pacific were among the first to do so.

The goal was to highlight gun-safety issues following the Feb. 14 murder of 17 students and teachers in a school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

More than 2,500 walkouts were planned, according to organizers who disseminated their plans on Twitter.

Walkout participants want Congress to ban assault weapons, require universal background checks for gun purchases and allow courts to disarm gun owners who display warning signs of violent behavior.

An Instagram video shows kids from Yokota High School in Tokyo gathered on a football field during the protest.

"Seventeen minutes, 17 lives," said Kyle Moss, 17, who was among the group that walked out of class at Yokota. "This is only the beginning. Every week more lives are lost due to gun violence and our generation will be the one that stops it."

Another Yokota High student protester said: "It was cool to see

so many people coming out for such a good cause."

At Kaiserslautern High School in Germany, more than 150 students crowded into a grassy courtyard to honor the Parkland victims. Organizers Madeline MacMillan and Zaccary O'Neil, both seniors, stood facing their classmates and read off 17 names, observing one minute of silence for each victim. Students remained solemn. Some bowed their heads and closed their eyes; others held hands.

"We wanted to show our support for our peers and friends in the States," MacMillan said.

The walkout at Kaiserslautern was among at least several planned at Department of Defense Education Activity schools in Europe. About 150 students at Ramstein Middle School gathered by the flagpole to honor the Parkland victims "in a safe and respectful manner," said an email to parents from the school principal shortly after the event concluded.

Between 150-200 students at the high school on Camp Humphreys, the new Eighth Army headquarters in South Korea, held a 17-minute vigil by the flag, according to officials and witnesses. Teachers did not participate. About 100 students at Daegu Middle High School on Camp Walker in South Korea also participated in the walkout, singing U.S. Forces Korea policy that prohibits protests on military installations.

"Seoul American High School will maintain a roster of any student who walks out of class and will provide that to the Yeongsan Garrison Command Team to

determine if any further steps are warranted," it said in a memo addressed to parents and sponsors.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern High School seniors Madeline MacMillan and Zaccary O'Neil led a walkout at their school in Germany in remembrance of the Parkland, Fla., and other school shooting victims on Wednesday.

## US schoolchildren mourn victims, protest gun violence at walkouts

By COLLIN BINKLEY  
Associated Press

Warning their futures are being stolen from them, tens of thousands of young people across the U.S. walked out of school to demand action on gun violence Wednesday in one of the biggest student protests since the Vietnam era.

Braving snow in New England and threats of school discipline in places like Georgia and Ohio, they carried signs, chanted slogans against the National Rifle Association and bowed their heads in tribute to the 17 dead in the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

"We're sick of it," said Maxwell Nardi, a senior at Douglas S. Freeman High School in Henrico, Va., just outside Richmond. "We're going to keep fighting, and we're not going to stop until Congress finally makes resolute changes."

Across the country and beyond, students were urged to leave class at 10 a.m. local time for 17 minutes — one minute for each of the dead in Florida. At some schools, students didn't walk

outside but lined the hallways, gathered in gyms and auditoriums or wore orange, the color used by the movement against gun violence, or maroon, the school color at Stoneman Douglas.

"I don't want my mother or my father having to worry about me going to school getting an education and then my life is gone," said Leticia Carroll, 15, a freshman who helped organize a walkout of more than 100 students at Groves High School in Beverly Hills, Mich., outside Detroit.

In Washington, more than 2,000 high-school age protesters observed the 17 minutes of silence by sitting on the ground with their backs turned to the White House as a church bell tolled.

The coordinated walkouts were organized by Empower, the youth wing of the Women's March, which brought thousands to Washington last year. It offered the students a list of demands for lawmakers, including a ban on assault weapons and mandatory background checks for all gun sales.

The organizers are seeking to keep up the pressure for stricter gun laws despite resistance from the White House and little action over the years on Capitol Hill.

determine if any further steps are warranted," it said in a memo addressed to parents and sponsors.

"We would also like to note that any student who leaves campus during the walkout time will be dealt with by military police," it added.

The memo said the student council planned a separate memorial service to honor the 17 students killed in the Parkland school shooting in lieu of the walkout.

School officials did not immediately respond to a request for more details.

DODEA said it was working on a request for information about the extent of the protests at its schools.

"DODEA does respect the right for our students to engage in peaceful expressions of their opinions through speech and other ways as long as it is done respectfully, does not interfere with the rights of others, and does not disrupt learning in the school," it said.

O'Neil and MacMillan said they didn't face any opposition

to organizing the walkout from Kaiserslautern school officials. DODEA sent out a newsletter giving students permission to participate in a similar event to the walkouts being held nationwide, O'Neil said, but without the political bent.

"We were specifically trying to make it nonpolitical," O'Neil said. "Due to the nature of laws on post ... you can't really hold a political event."

"Nobody discouraged us, nobody really encouraged us," O'Neil said of teachers. "It was just 'we won't mark you absent.'"

Teachers at Ramstein High School were told this week that students participating in the walkout should not be advocating for or against guns.

But teachers could use the opportunity "to guide appropriate discussions before or after student-led events," said DODEA-Europe spokesman Will Griffin. "We encourage this critical thinking and the desire to shape positive outcomes in their future."

Students interviewed at Kaiserslautern were mixed on whether

they wanted to see stricter gun laws in the States. But they all said they feel safer from gun violence attending school on a military post overseas. Still, school shootings, particularly Parkland since the student victims were of the same age, hit especially hard.

"It kind of hurts seeing kids our age not being able to live like life we are," said sophomore Kaleigh Nelson, 15.

O'Neil's mom, Kara O'Neil, said she feels that her children are safer attending schools overseas, but it doesn't erase the problem. "At any moment any child here can get a hold of a parent's weapon or engage in acts of violence," she said.

"Being in Europe does not distract violence. It might make it more difficult, but I do feel like the children are in a constant state of stress regardless of where they attend school and that in and of itself is a danger."

Stars and Stripes intern Monique Wilson and reporter Marcus Fichtl contributed to this report.  
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## NATION

# Dems claim win, GOP hangs on in Pa. election

BY BILL BARRE, MARC LEVY  
AND STEVE PEOPLES  
Associated Press

MOUNT LEBANON, Pa. — A razor's edge separated Democrat Conor Lamb and Republican Rick Saccone early Wednesday in their closely watched special election in Pennsylvania, where a surprisingly strong bid by first-time candidate Lamb severely tested President Donald Trump's sway in a GOP stronghold.

Lamb claimed victory before exuberant supporters early Wednesday as the number of votes still to be counted dwindled in a contest that has drawn national attention as a bellwether for the midterm elections in November when the Republican Party's House and Senate majorities are at risk.

The Marine veteran told his crowd that voters had directed him to "do your job" in Washington. "Mission accepted," he declared.

Earlier, Saccone, a 60-year-old Air Force veteran, told his own supporters, "It's not over yet; we're going to fight all



Lamb

the way, all the way to the end. We'll never give up."

Lamb told CNN Wednesday he hadn't yet heard from Saccone, but added, "I congratulate him on fighting hard the whole way."

Regardless of the outcome — and a recount was possible — Lamb's showing in a district Trump won by 20 points in the presidential race was sure to stoke anxiety among Republicans nationwide and renewed enthusiasm among Democrats.

Wednesday morning, Lamb's lead stood at 641 votes — out of more than 224,000 votes cast, according to unofficial results.

Election officials said there are about 200 absentee votes and an unknown number of provisional ballots still to be counted.

The four counties in the western Pennsylvania district have seven days to count provisional ballots.

In a race this close, either candidate's supporters can ask for a recount. However there are stiff requirements, including requiring three voters in the same precinct who can attest that error or fraud was committed.

The ultimate winner will face re-election in just eight months, and the congressional district as currently shaped will likely vanish next year thanks to a court-ordered redrawing of the state's district maps.

Yet Trump and his chief allies invested tremendous time and resources in keeping the seat in Republican hands, mindful the contest could be used to measure Trump's lasting appeal among white, working-class voters and Democrats' anti-Trump fervor.

Lamb, a 33-year-old former federal prosecutor, asserted his independence from national Democratic Party leaders and studiously downplayed his opposition to the Republican president in the district where Trump's support has slipped.

But he also offered a full embrace of or against labor, hammered Republican tax

cuts and promised to defend Social Security, Medicare and pensions.

"People have a right to know that their government walks on their side of the street," Lamb said. "What that means is I'll work on the problems that our people face ... and I'll work with anyone to do that."

For Democrats, a win would reverberate nationwide, while even a narrow loss would be viewed as a sign of increased Democratic potential as the midterm season begins.

Democrats must flip 24 GOP-held seats this fall to seize control of the House, and months ago few had counted on the district to be in play. The seat has been in Republican hands for the last 15 years.

It was open now only because former Republican congressman Tim Murphy, who espoused strong anti-abortion views, resigned last fall amid revelations of an extramarital affair in which he urged his mistress to get an abortion.

## Confirmation fights expected on Trump's State, CIA picks

BY LISA MASCARO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Back in 2017, the Senate gave quick confirmation to President Donald Trump's national security team and his first secretary of state. It's not likely to go as smoothly for Trump's new nominees to run State and the CIA.

Senate Democrats — and some top Republicans — are slow-walking the process amid fresh questions over the Trump administration's stance toward Russia and revived inquiries into the CIA's dark history of torture.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

The president's firing of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson touched off a Senate confirmation battle that will play out this spring

ahead of midterm elections when control of Congress hangs in the balance.

By tapping CIA Director Mike Pompeo to replace Tillerson, the White House is counting on a repeat of Senate support for the former Kansas congressman confirmed last year to lead the clandestine agency.

But the political ground has shifted since the 66-32 vote to confirm Pompeo in January 2017 when the GOP-led Congress was eager to put the new president's team in place and Democrats were unwilling to stand in the way. More than a dozen Democrats joined all but one Republican — GOP Sen. Rand Paul, of Kentucky — in backing him.

In the year since, Pompeo has drawn scrutiny for actions and statements showcasing his loyalty to Trump and his approach

toward Russia.

Last month, Pompeo's meeting with two top Russian spy chiefs drew a chain of questions from Schumer in part because it occurred days before the Trump administration initially decided not to issue new sanctions over Russian interference in the election.

Pompeo also made headlines for meeting with a former intelligence official who has floated the theory that Democratic National Committee's email hack was an inside job rather than Russian interference in the 2016 election as U.S. officials have largely concluded. That meeting was first reported by The Intercept.

At the same time, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., made it clear he had plenty of questions for Trump's choice of Gina Haspel to head the CIA over the "nature and extent" of her involvement

in the agency's waterboarding of terrorism suspects.

McCain has been among the GOP's most outspoken opponents of waterboarding and harsh interrogation techniques that Congress did away with in 2008 but Trump has said he would consider reviving.

As a career intelligence officer, Haspel oversaw a secret CIA prison in Thailand from 2003 to 2005 where top terrorism suspects were waterboarded, and she later helped carry out an order to destroy waterboarding videos. Although she now serves as CIA deputy director, Haspel has not previously had to undergo Senate confirmation.

"Ms. Haspel needs to explain the nature and extent of her involvement in the CIA's interrogation program," McCain said in a statement. "I know the Senate

will do its job in examining Ms. Haspel's record as well as her beliefs about torture and her approach to current law."

Republicans hope to approve Trump's nominees quickly, with the Foreign Relations Committee scheduling hearings next month for Pompeo and the Senate intelligence committee set to consider Haspel.

## Trump is met with protests, rallies in 1st California visit

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — President Donald Trump's motorcade Tuesday zipped past demonstrators who both jeered and cheered him and his plans for a "big beautiful border wall" after he inspected prototypes.

The president's first visit to the California border amid a contentious battle with state officials over his immigration policies was peaceful. Hundreds of people participated in scattered rallies on both sides of the border dividing San Diego from Tijuana, Mexico.

Law enforcement was out in force, and the area where Trump visited the eight prototypes was heavily cordoned off.

Rows of police kept apart supporters and opponents of the Trump administration along the avenue where his motorcade drove down.

Each side booed, cheered and waved both Mexican and American flags as the president's convoy sped past them.

Trump examined eight 30-foot-tall prototypes built last year along the border in a bid to fulfill his signature campaign promise.

Trump spoke with immigration enforcement officials and with Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar before heading to a fundraiser in Beverly Hills, where a crowd of demonstrators for and against the president faced off in a park.



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# NATION

## Cleanup begins after third storm pounds East Coast

By MARK PRATT  
AND SARAH BETANCOURT  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Storm cleanup and the restoration of power to the tens of thousands of residents and businesses without electricity were the focus Wednesday, one day after a fierce nor'easter lashed the Northeast with hurricane-force winds and heavy snow.

With spring tantalizingly close after the switch to daylight saving time, many were left shaking their heads — and wielding shovels they had hoped would not be needed again — after the third major storm in two weeks buried some New England towns beneath 2 feet of snow Tuesday.

About 140,000 customers were without power in Massachusetts on Wednesday morning, while Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut were also dealing with scattered outages. Utility National Grid, which serves Massachusetts and Rhode Island, said it could be Thursday evening before everyone is back online.

The National Weather Service, relying on trained spotters, said Tuesday's storm brought

more than 2 feet of snow to some communities.

Uxbridge, Mass., was the leader with nearly 28 inches. Foster, R.I., got more than 25 inches, while in Connecticut, Killingly had the most with just over 20 inches.

Rochester, N.H., got 25 inches, while Limerick and Newfield, Maine, had 23.5 inches each.

High winds and blowing snow led meteorologists to categorize the storm as a blizzard in parts of New England, including Boston. Gusts approached 70 mph on Cape Cod, the weather service said.

Amtrak suspended all service on Tuesday between Boston and New York City. The railroad later announced that most service between the two cities would resume sometime Wednesday.

Road and air travel also was disrupted. Slick roads were blamed for at least one death in North Carolina, and the flight-tracking site FlightAware reported more than 1,500 canceled flights. Boston's Logan International Airport, nearly deserted Tuesday, resumed flights Wednesday.

Janice James' house in Oyster Cove, on Cape Cod, was in the dark again after losing power for three



STEVEN SENNE/AP

**Workers remove a fallen tree from a road and repair power lines during a winter storm Tuesday in Norwell, Mass.**

days in the last storm. James and her four children spent the day eating baked goods she made before the storm and hoping the lights and heat would come back soon.

"We are freezing," the 39-year-old James said.

In Rhode Island, the snow did not stop residents from getting to church. In East Greenwich, the Rev. Bernard Healey said he celebrated noon Mass with "two hearty souls" who came despite the nor'easter.

"If I lost power, we'd (still) celebrate Mass," Healey said. "We would just use more candles."



ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

**Gabby DiGiacomo, of Whitefield, Maine, slides on a saucer down Congress Street in Portland, Maine, during Tuesday's winter storm.**

## Police use of social media raises transparency questions

By KATHLEEN FOODY  
Associated Press

DENVER — It opens with a warning: This video contains footage from real police body cameras. Viewer discretion is advised.

Then, an introduction: "I would like you to hear from me, what happened," Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock says, facing the camera.

The next eight minutes provide a carefully edited glimpse of the events that led to a 29-year-old deputy's Dec. 31 death inside an apartment complex south of Denver.

The video posted Jan. 8 on the department's social media accounts is punctuated by gunshots and shouts of panic and pain, and undoubtedly illustrates the danger Deputy Zack Parrish and other officers met during that call. Open government advocates also consider it a dramatic example of law enforcement agencies' expanding efforts to release their own accounts of events to the public and media.

There's nothing wrong with police communicating through social media, open government advocates said. But they worry it allows law enforcement to bypass questions from traditional media and warn that taking advantage of the tools requires agencies to be completely transparent, whatever the situation.

Colorado, Parrish was among three deputies in three counties shot dead while on duty in barely more than a month. The



DOUGLAS COUNTY, COLO., SHERIFFS/AP

**In this frame grab from a Jan. 8 video on the Twitter feed of the Douglas County, Colo., Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Tony Spurlock speaks to subscribers to explain the incident in which a deputy was gunned down while responding to a call on Dec. 31.**

calls that preceded the killings varied — a mentally ill veteran, a reported fight and a stolen car investigation. But the departments took similar approaches, relying on their social media accounts to release information and giving news outlets limited opportunity to ask questions about what happened.

Agencies are eager to cut the middle-

man and tell their own stories, said Lauri Stevens, a former TV news reporter who founded an annual conference in 2010 that teaches departments about promoting themselves on social media.

Stevens said many agencies are getting better at connecting with residents on routine days, sharing updates and knocking down rumors during high-profile incidents.

Sgt. William Hutchison, Palm Springs police spokesman, presented at Stevens' conference last year about his agency's communications strategy after two officers were shot dead in 2016. Looking back, Hutchison said he would have posted even more information directly to Facebook and Twitter.

Hutchison said he doesn't view social accounts as a way to avoid traditional media, and complimented local coverage of the officers' killings.

"More people watch the news than the number of people who watch us, and you've got to maintain that relationship," he said. "But law enforcement is becoming more skilled and has (our) own platform now that we didn't have before."

But that takes a staff capable of providing regular updates as they balance other responsibilities, a challenge for smaller departments on any day.

In Douglas County, the department cited an ongoing investigation to deny media requests for body camera footage from the call that led to Parrish's death. Days later,

the agency posted its video to Facebook and Twitter, which includes some of the material denied to media.

The video omits the shooter's face and voice. And it includes only audio of the moment Matthew Riehl fired through his bedroom door, fatally wounding Parrish and striking four other officers trying to take the shooter into custody on a mental health hold.

In an interview with The Associated Press nine days after the shooting, Douglas County's sheriff defended releasing the edited video after the department denied journalists' open-records requests for the complete footage.

"I knew that if I went to the press, radio and television, I'm going to get 60 seconds, and the rest was going to hit the editor's floor," Spurlock said. "I'm not going to be able to tell the story in such a fashion that I thought was appropriate for the dignity of Zack Parrish and the other four officers that were shot — and what I believe the citizens of Douglas County deserve."

Social media's widespread use makes it a tempting resource for law enforcement, but police must use it responsibly, said David Alan Sklansky, a Stanford criminal law professor who has studied law enforcement use of technology.

"If a department wants its feed to be trusted, it needs to earn that trust partly by making sure it is candid and forthright in what is posted," he said.



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## NATION

# 3 men charged in '17 mosque attack

By MICHAEL TARM  
AND AMY FORLITTI  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Why three men allegedly chose to travel some 500 miles from a rural farming community of fewer than 100 residents in central Illinois to bomb a particular mosque in suburban Minneapolis isn't clear.

But a complaint released as they were charged Tuesday in the 2017 attack on the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center includes a chilling comment one suspect allegedly made about their desired effect: They hoped to scare Muslims into leaving the U.S.

Attention by investigators, as well as members of the Bloomington, Minn., mosque, now turns to the suspects' affiliations and backgrounds and what else these might reveal about their motivations.

A statement from the U.S. attorney's office in Springfield, Ill., says the men also are suspected in the attempted bombing of an abortion clinic. The Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center, a Black Muslim mosque, was bombed just before morning prayers on Aug. 5, causing a fire and extensive damage although no one was injured or killed. There was an attempted bombing of the Champaign, Ill., Women's Health Practice on Nov. 1.

One of the men, Michael B. Hari, 47, described in an April 2017 Chicago Tribune article who he drafted a \$10 billion plan to build a wall along the border with Mexico, citing President Donald Trump's call for such a wall. Hari drew up the proposal after launching a security company, Crisis Resolution Security Services, the newspaper said.

Hari also filed a federal lawsuit just last month in central Illinois, naming the U.S. secretaries of agriculture and health and human services as defendants, accuses their departments of violating his constitutional rights by doing the food safety certification work that

his firm, Equicert, does.

The other two men charged in the mosque bombing with Hari were identified as Joe Morris, 22, and Michael McWhorter, 29. All three are from Clarence, a rural community some 35 miles north of Champaign-Urbana. A fourth man was charged with a gun offense, but he was not identified as a suspect in the bombing or attempted bombing.

A complaint said a tip in December led authorities to investigate the three men after a person sent the local sheriff photos of guns and bomb-making material inside Hari's parents' home, where Hari often stayed. In January, a second informant told authorities that the three men had carried out the mosque bombing and the failed clinic bombing, according to the complaint.

McWhorter allegedly told an FBI agent during an interview that the three rented a pickup in Champaign and drove more than 500 miles to Minnesota with a plan to bomb the mosque, according to criminal court records. He said they wanted to let Muslims know they are not welcome in the United States and "scare them out of the country," according to notes taken by the FBI.

Morris told one informant that Hari had promised to pay him and McWhorter \$18,000 for participating in the mosque bombing, according to the complaint. An affidavit says the men broke a window to the imam's office and threw a pipe bomb containing black powder into the mosque. The pipe bomb exploded, causing a fire that was extinguished by sprinklers.

Minneapolis FBI Acting Special Agent in Charge Robert Bone said authorities no longer believe there is any further threat to the community in connection with this incident. McWhorter also allegedly admitted that the three men tried to bomb the abortion clinic on Nov. 7, according to the complaint.

## Puppy forced to travel in overhead bin dies on flight

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — A dog was found dead after being stowed in a travel bag and stored in an overhead bin during a United Airlines flight.

The French bulldog was traveling Monday with its owner and her children from Houston to New York. A flight attendant ordered the passenger to store the dog in her carrier and issued June Lara wrote in a Facebook post.

Other passengers reportedly heard the dog, believed to be 10 months old, barking during the flight before it was found dead upon landing at LaGuardia Airport.

There was no sound as we landed and opened his kennel," Lara wrote. "There was no movement as

his family called his name."

United Airlines said it was investigating the incident and expressed its condolences to the family.

"This was a tragic accident that should never have occurred, as pets should never be placed in the overhead bin," the company said in a statement. "We assume full responsibility for this tragedy and express our deepest condolences to the family and are committed to supporting them."

The airline's pet policy states, "A pet traveling in cabin must be carried in an approved hard-sided or soft-sided kennel. The kennel must fit completely under the seat in front of the customer and remain there at all times," the policy reads.



DAN ANDERSON/AP

Rescue crews work at the scene of a deadly charter bus crash Tuesday in Loxley, Ala. The bus carrying Texas high school band members home from Disney World plunged into a ravine before dawn Tuesday.

## Texas student describes 'huge bump,' panic of tour bus crash

By JAY REEVES AND DAN ANDERSON  
Associated Press

LOXLEY, Ala. — One minute members of the Texas high school band were sleeping soundly on an early morning bus trip home from a much-anticipated trip to a music festival at Disney World. The next minute their bus was plunging into a ravine so steep rescuers had to rappel down to them.

The crash tossed students around the vehicle and killed the driver.

Relatives identified the driver, Harry Caligone, as a caring man who was "dedicated to his job." About three dozen others on the bus were hurt, six seriously, authorities and the bus company said. Interstate 10 was blocked for hours where the accident occurred between Mobile, Ala., and Pensacola, Fla.

The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known, but survivors from Channelview High School in metro Houston described being asleep one moment and tumbling through the air the next.

Student DeWayne Benson, 15, told KTRK-TV by telephone he awoke to hear the band director repeatedly say "Harry" before the bus hit a series of bumps followed by one "huge bump."

"Some students were stuck under seats, some were on top of other students and there's a lot of panic to get people out," said Benson, who was taken to a hospital but wasn't injured.

Students used cellphones as lights to get out and grabbed blankets to help people outside, he said. Temperatures were in the 40s at the time of the wreck,

which happened around 5:30 a.m.

First responders used ropes to rappel down the more than 50-foot ravine in the middle of I-10 and then had to cut some of the victims from the wreck, said Baldwin County Sheriff Huey Hoss Mack.

The Channelview Independent School District said 40 students and six adults from the school were on board. Medical officials said at least 37 people, most of them teenagers, were treated at hospitals or other facilities in Pensacola and southwest Alabama for injuries that ranged from minor to very serious.

First Class Tours Inc., the bus operator, said Caligone was a longtime driver with the company.

Another bus carrying members of the band that was not involved in the accident stopped after the crash but did not allow the students to get off and eventually continued on to Channelview, a Houston suburb of about 38,000.

Only hours before the crash, the band's Facebook page had been updated to show a large group posing outside Disney World, where the band performed at a music festival Saturday.

DeWayne Benson's mother, Frances Dodson-Benson, said they left last Thursday and had been expected to arrive home Tuesday afternoon. She said her son had been excited about the upcoming trip and right up until he called her in the minutes after the crash, everything had been going well.

"The first words out of his mouth were 'Mom, I'm OK,'" she said. "I just think they are all going to be somewhat traumatized."

## 'Pretty Hoe' faces trafficking charges

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A prostitute who made little secret about her line of work, dubbing herself "Pretty Hoe" and advertising widely on social media, was charged Tuesday with recruiting minors to be hookers.

Melanie Denae Williams was indicted in U.S. District Court for allegedly trafficking minors for sex and using force or fraud to coerce an adult into prostitution. The indictment names Williams throughout by her "Pretty Hoe" moniker that she used on an official website that dubbed her "the most hated hoe in L.A."

Williams, 22, was arrested Christmas Eve after forcing a woman she recruited for prostitu-



Williams

Federal Defender David Wasserman refused to comment on the case. Williams is in custody and faces arraignment Friday.

The victim identified only by her initials told police Williams had forced her to sell sex and took all the proceeds, Tripp said. When the woman tried to part company, Wil-

liams threatened to kill her and her family. Williams forced the woman to tattoo "Melanie" on her wrist and face to show she was her property, Tripp said.

A video on Williams' phone showed a gun pointed at the alleged victim and a voice, believed to be Williams, asking her if she planned to leave.

Tripp said videos on YouTube showed Williams beating unknown young women and also threatening them with a gun. Her postings on social media were replete with expletives. An Instagram post under Williams' handle said: "Who 18+ & wanna make some legit money?"

The affidavit filed with the charges does not offer details about the minors Williams allegedly recruited.

## WORLD



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel takes the oath of office after she was elected for a fourth term as chancellor in the German parliament Bundestag in Berlin on Wednesday.

## Germany's Merkel is sworn in for 4th term

By GEIR MOULSON  
Associated Press

BERLIN — Angela Merkel was sworn in for her fourth term as German chancellor on Wednesday, putting an end to nearly six months of political drift in Europe's biggest economy.

Lawmakers voted 364-315 to re-elect Merkel, Germany's leader since 2005. The coalition of Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union, its Bavaria-only sister party the Christian Social Union and the center-left Social Democrats has 399 of the 709 seats in parliament.

In what is widely expected to be her last term, Merkel will have to hold together what is potentially her most fragile coalition yet while also addressing challenges such as a potential Europe-U.S. trade war and seeking agreement with France and others on the future of a fractious European Union.

"The expectations of our

friends and partners are huge, particularly in Europe," President Frank-Walter Steinmeier told Merkel and her ministers as he formally appointed the new Cabinet. "Many hope we in Germany will show that liberal democracies are capable of acting and facing the future."

The chancellor heads a much-changed Cabinet, with the governing parties — which are traditional rivals — keen to send signals of renewal after a September election in which all lost significant ground. There are new faces in the most important posts, the finance, foreign, economy and interior ministries.

The same parties have governed for the past four years but putting together the new administration has been unprecedentedly hard work.

Wednesday's parliamentary vote came 171 days after the election, nearly double the previous record.

## Duterte is withdrawing from International Criminal Court

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte announced Wednesday that the Philippines is withdrawing its ratification of a treaty that created the International Criminal Court, where he is facing a possible complaint over thousands of suspects killed in his anti-drug crackdown.

Critics expressed shock at Duterte's decision, saying he was trying to escape accountability and fearing it could foster an even worse human rights situation in the country.

An ICC prosecutor announced last month that she was opening a preliminary examination into possible crimes against humanity over alleged extrajudicial killings in Duterte's drug crackdown, angering the president.

Duterte said Wednesday that the court cannot have jurisdiction over him because the Philippine Senate's ratification in 2011 of the Rome Statute that established the court was never publicized as required by law. He called the failure to make the ratification public a "glaring and fatal error."

Thousands of mostly poor drug suspects have been killed under Duterte's drug crackdown. He argued Wednesday that the killings do not amount to crimes against humanity, genocide or similar atrocities.

"The so-called war against drugs is lawfully directed against drug lords and pushers who have for many years destroyed the present generation, specially the youth," Duterte said in a 15-page statement explaining his legal position.

# Britain will expel 23 Russian diplomats over spy poisoning

By JILL LAWLESS AND DANICA KIRKA  
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain will expel nearly two dozen Russian diplomats, sever high-level bilateral contacts with Moscow and take both open and covert action against Kremlin meddling after the poisoning of a former spy, the prime minister said Wednesday, plunging U.K.-Russian relations into their deepest freeze since the Cold War.

Prime Minister Theresa May told lawmakers that 23 Russian diplomats who have been identified as undeclared intelligence officers have a week to leave the country.

May spoke after Moscow ignored a midnight deadline to explain how a nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union was used against Sergei Skripal, an ex-Russian agent convicted of spying for Britain, and his daughter Yulia. They remain in critical condition in a hospital in Salisbury, southwestern England, after being found unconscious on March 4.

May said Russia had provided no explanation, and "there is no alternative conclusion other than that the Russian state was culpable for the attempted murder of Mr. Skripal and his daughter."

She announced a range of economic and diplomatic measures, including the suspension of high-level contacts with Russia. An invitation for Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to visit Britain has been canceled, and May said British ministers and royals won't attend the soccer World Cup in Russia

this summer.

May also said Britain would clamp down on murky Russian money and strengthen its powers to impose sanctions on abusers of human rights — though she gave few details.

The Russian Embassy in London said the expulsion of diplomats was "totally unacceptable, unjustified and shortsighted."

"All the responsibility for the deterioration of the Russia-U.K. relationship lies with the current political leadership of Britain," it said in a statement.

Russian Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko said Britain's actions were "a provocation."

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Wednesday that Britain has offered "baseless accusations which aren't backed up by any evidence."

On Tuesday, British counterterrorism police took charge of an investigation into the death in London of Russian businessman Nikolai Glushkov because he was connected to a prominent Kremlin foe.

His death, confirmed by his lawyer in Russia, came a week after Skripal's poisoning. Police said there was no evidence to suggest a link to the March 4 poisoning of Skripal and his daughter.

Attorney Andrei Borovkov told Russian media outlets that Glushkov had died, but said he was unaware of the time and circumstances. Reports in British and Russian media said Glushkov, who was in his late 60s, was found dead at his home in southwest London.

## Famed scientist Hawking dies at 76

By RAPHAEL SATTER  
Associated Press

PARIS — In his final years, the only thing connecting the brilliant physicist to the outside world was a couple of inches of frayed nerve in his cheek.

As slowly as a word per minute, Stephen Hawking used the twitching of the muscle under his right eye to grind out his thoughts on a custom-built computer, painstakingly outlining his vision of time, the universe and humanity's place within it.

What he produced was a masterpiece of popular science, one that guided a generation of enthusiasts through the esoteric world of anti-particles, quarks and quantum theory. His success in turn transformed him into a massively popular scientist, one as familiar to the wider world through his appearances on "The Simpsons" and "Star Trek" as his work on cosmology and black holes.

Hawking owed one part of his fame to his triumph over amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, a degenerative disease that eats away at the nervous system. When he was diagnosed at age 21, he was given only a few years to live.

But Hawking defied the normally fatal illness for more than 50 years, pursuing a brilliant career that stunned doctors and thrilled his fans. Even though a severe attack of pneumonia left him breathing through a tube, an electronic voice synthesizer allowed him to continue speaking, albeit in a robotic monotone that



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Renowned scientist Stephen Hawking, whose brilliant mind ranged across time and space though his body was paralyzed by disease, died at 76, a family spokesman said early Wednesday.

became one of his trademarks.

He carried on working into his 70s, spinning theories, teaching students and writing "A Brief History of Time," an accessible exploration of the mechanics of the universe that sold millions of copies.

By the time he died Wednesday at 76, Hawking was among the most recognizable faces in science, on par with Albert Einstein.

Hawking often credited humor with helping him deal with his disability, and it was his sense of mischief that made him game for a series of stunts.

He made cameo television appearances in "The Simpsons,"

"Star Trek" and the "Big Bang Theory" and counted among his fans U2 guitarist The Edge, who attended a January 2002 celebration of Hawking's 60th birthday.

His early life was chronicled in the 2014 film "The Theory of Everything," with Eddie Redmayne winning the best actor Academy Award for his portrayal of Hawking. The film focused more attention on Hawking's remarkable life.

He was inducted into the Royal Society in 1974 and received the Albert Einstein Award in 1978. In 1989, Queen Elizabeth II made him a Companion of Honor, one of the highest distinctions she can bestow.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Famous buried 'ghost tracks' appear at beach

**NJ** LOWER TOWNSHIP — The back-to-back winter storms hitting New Jersey have helped unveil famed abandoned train tracks confined to a remote stretch of a beach in Cape May County.

The famed "ghost tracks" at Higbee Beach have drawn a number of visitors and photographers since their re-emergence. NJ.com reported that the latest section to be uncovered on the bay beach in Lower Township is more intact and level than the segment that appeared last summer.

The ghost tracks are all that remains of a rail line that once served as support for sand mining and munitions testing facilities during World War I.

## Pizzeria hosts free weddings for Pi Day

**NY** NEW YORK — A New York City pizzeria hosted a full day of free weddings in honor of Pi Day on Wednesday.

The restaurant chain, *Spizza*, has been holding "Pi Day Weddings" since 2015, and many couples have taken part. WNBC-TV reported that a total of five couples were expected to wed at the pizzeria, with flowers and photography provided for free.

The couples also were to receive free food and drinks for their ceremonies.

## Pool bursts, washes woman down ravine

**WA** TACOMA — A Washington state woman had to be rescued after her above-ground swimming pool burst and washed her down a ravine.

The News Tribune reported that the woman had been working on the pool Monday when it suddenly burst. The water swept the woman about 30 feet down the gully.

Fire crews pulled the woman out of the gully using a litter and ropes.

The woman was taken to a hospital with unknown injuries. Fire officials said she was conscious when rescued.

## Sno-Cat resembling 'General Lee' car stolen

**CO** MINTURN — Authorities in Colorado are looking for a man suspected of stealing a Sno-Cat fitted out to look like the "General Lee," the famous car featured in the classic television series "The Dukes of Hazzard."

Co-owner John Brandenburg said the large, treaded snow vehicle was on a trailer outside a Minturn restaurant when someone hitched it up and drove away sometime Sunday. He immediately took to social media and received several responses from people who said they saw a pickup hauling it west on Interstate 70.

KCNCTV in Denver reported that the Sno-Cat was tracked to a garage in the Grand Junction area. A SWAT team was deployed, but the suspect got away.

## THE CENSUS

# 15M

The number of barrels of bourbon Jim Beam had filled as of Monday since Prohibition. The company said it's a first for a Kentucky distillery. It was filled and sealed by seventh-generation Master Distiller Fred Noe and his son, Freddie, at Beam's flagship distillery in Clermont. Employees at the company's Clermont, Boston and Frankfort, Ky., plants signed the barrel, which will be stored in a nine-story warehouse rebuilt by Jim Beam after Prohibition on the Clermont distillery grounds. The company said it will be among nearly 2.3 million barrels of bourbon currently aging in rackhouses across the state.



PHOTOS BY JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes



## 2 shoes for every life

Above: Thousands of children's shoes are displayed on the lawn outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Tuesday in memory of all the children killed by gun violence since the Sandy Hook school shooting in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, 2012. Avaaz, a U.S.-based civic organization, placed the shoes there, according to The Associated Press. After Tuesday's memorial event, the shoes will be donated to homeless shelters and other charities. Left: A pair of sneakers donated by actress Alyssa Milano is among the shoes.

## Possible deal in child waterboarding case

**PA** ALIQUIPPA — A prosecutor said a Pennsylvania couple could be reunited with the 12-year-old daughter they are accused of waterboarding if a judge approves a plea deal.

Beaver County District Attorney David Lozier said the deal calls for guilty pleas from Malisa and Dion Stevens to child endangerment and for sentences of seven years' probation that could eventually be reduced to five years. The couple would be reunited under supervision with their daughter.

Authorities allege the girl was dragged into the Aliquippa home's basement, a wet towel was placed over her face and her chair was tilted backward as a bucket of cold water was poured onto her, preventing her from breathing.

## Man driving in funeral procession shot dead

**MD** BALTIMORE — Police said a man driving

in a funeral procession was shot dead in Baltimore.

The Baltimore Sun reported that Baltimore police Detective Jeremy Silbert said Monday that officers on patrol found Damita Holmes, 39, suffering from gunshot wounds Saturday. Silbert said a preliminary investigation indicated that suspects had approached the vehicle that was participating in the procession and opened fire before fleeing.

Holmes was pronounced dead at a local hospital.

## Boy cited in setting of fire at playground

**SD** SIOUX FALLS — Sioux Falls police said a 10-year-old boy is accused of setting fire to an apartment playground.

Crews were called Sunday night to the fire at a private playground on the grounds of Autumn Park Apartments.

A police spokesman said an investigation found the fire began with the boy playing with a lighter and a piece of paper.

The fire spread to the rest of the playground, which had just been installed in December and cost \$65,000.

The Argus Leader reported the child was cited for second-degree arson and intentional damage to property.



## Bride arrested for DWI on way to her wedding

**AZ** MARANA — A bride in southern Arizona was arrested on suspicion of impaired driving after she was involved in a car crash on the way to her wedding.

Amber Young, 32, was wearing an open-back dress when she was handcuffed and put into a police cruiser Monday in Marana.

Police spokesman Sgt. Chriswell Scott said Young is believed to have caused the three-vehicle collision. One person suffered minor injuries in the crash.

## Lack of vacancy leads to attack at hotel

**NM** LAS CRUCES — A New Mexico man is facing charges after police say he slammed his truck into a security guard when a Las Cruces hotel told him it had no vacancies.

KTSM-TV in El Paso reported Dal Iacofano, 55, was arrested last week following the alleged attack at Hotel Encanto.

According to police, Iacofano became enraged after he arrived at the hotel around 2 a.m. and was told no rooms were available. Police said Iacofano was escorted from the lobby and later hit a security guard with his truck.

Authorities said Iacofano then hit two other parked cars. He faces a number of charges, including aggravated assault.

From wire reports



## FACES

# Report: Actress paid less than 'Crown' costar

A producer of hit royal drama "The Crown" says Claire Foy, who played the central role of Queen Elizabeth II, was paid less than her on-screen husband.

The Netflix series traces Elizabeth's journey from princess to queen, beginning in the 1950s.

Trade publication Variety quoted producer Suzanne Mackie as confirming Foy was paid less than Matt Smith, who played Prince Philip in two seasons of the series. She made the reported comment at an industry event in Jerusalem. She said this was because Smith was better-known after starring in sci-fi series "Doctor Who." Mackie said the gap would be closed with the forthcoming third series, saying "going forward, no one gets paid more than the queen."

Foy's agent did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday.

Neither Foy nor Smith will appear in the third series, which will star Olivia Colman as the middle-aged monarch.

From The Associated Press

**Matt Smith, left, and Claire Foy star in the Netflix series "The Crown."** Netflix photo



## Do audiences have award show fatigue? Or are the events losing their appeal?

By DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

After Nielsen's brutal morning-after report cards for the Oscars and Grammys this winter, it's worth asking whether television viewers are losing interest in watching the entertainment industry's most prominent people celebrate themselves.

The Academy Awards reached 26.5 million viewers, easily a record low for what is often the second most-watched program of the year after the Super Bowl. A month earlier, Grammy viewership slipped below the 20 million mark, down 24 percent from 2017 and the music awards show's smallest audience since 2009. Opening night of the Winter Olympics had a bigger crowd than both shows.

That's alarming news for networks that have considered major awards shows to be reliable, DVR-proof live events. Experts suggest the shows aren't immune to the same forces depressing viewership across all of television, with some specific factors that hurt the Oscars and Grammys this year.

By the time the Oscars are done, viewers who follow these things are probably exhausted from awards. Besides the Emmys,

Golden Globes and Grammys, the calendar is filled with the actors, producers and directors guild awards, the MTV Movie Awards, the Billboard music awards, the American Music Awards, competing country music organization awards ... You get the idea.

There's little novel about celebrities standing on stage with a piece of hardware, thanking God, their spouses and agents.

Big awards shows used to be one of the few chances to see celebrities outside of their work. But the entertainment news shows make that common-place, too, said Tom O'Neil, editor of Goldderby.com, a web site that dishes and predicts winners of big awards. "The true glut of media that we have out there nibbles at the viewership base of the awards shows," O'Neil said.

Television viewership in general is going down, with more people attracted to streaming services where they can watch programs on their own schedules. Young people, in particular, increasingly prefer watching highlights on their devices than shows that stretch past three or four hours.

Networks have tried to fix those problems for their shows in general, not just awards shows, without much success. One retired network executive questions whether that trend could be reversed. "Short of full-frontal nudity, I don't know what they could do," he quipped.

The bad performances of the Grammys and Oscars can't be explained simply by those factors, however. The Golden Globes audience of 19 million in January was 5 percent down from 2017, a decrease roughly in par with what most programs see these days. The Emmy Awards audience of 11.38 million last fall was slightly up from the year before, Nielsen said.

Some political conservatives have suggested that a backlash among viewers against liberal celebrities espousing their views contributes to the slump. A Fox News website headline in January said that the "Trump-bashing Golden Globes" ratings were down. That's a factor hard to measure, however. One of the Globes' biggest stories was an Oprah Winfrey speech some saw as a 2020 presidential campaign-opener. Despite that, Globe ratings didn't nearly go down as much as the Grammys or Oscars.

The Oscars celebrated movies like "The Shape of Water" that could hardly be considered blockbusters. Couple that with major awards competitions largely viewed as shoe-ins, and the night bordered on the predictable.

A big test can come next year for the Oscars, with the movie "Black Panther" both an enormous success and a critical favorite. That could bring viewers back: the biggest Academy Award ratings ever were recorded the year "Titanic" won best picture.

## Production company, others set to adopt inclusion riders

Associated Press

Prominent producers and celebrities like Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Paul Feig are jumping on the inclusion rider bandwagon following Frances McDormand's best actress Oscar acceptance speech.

Fanshen Cox DiGiovanni said late Monday on Twitter that Damon and Affleck's production company Pearl Street Films would be adopting the inclusion rider in conjunction with USC's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative.

Early Tuesday, "Bridesmaids" director Paul Feig followed suit saying on Twitter that his company is also going forward with the inclusion rider for all film and television productions.

Feig thanked Stacy L. Smith, the director of USC Annenberg's Media, Diversity & Social Change Initiative, for her "guidance and inspiration."

"We challenge other companies and studios to do the same," Feig wrote.

"Black Panther" actor Michael B. Jordan was one of the first to lend his public support to the concept after the Oscars for his company Outlier Society, which is developing a sci-fi series for Netflix and other projects.

McDormand brought new attention to contract addendums requiring studios to hire a diverse crew and cast for a project at the Oscars on March 4. The Annenberg Inclusion Initiative explained the concept in a December 2017 paper, crediting Smith as having crafted the rider with employment attorney Kalpana Kotagal.

Pearl Street Films has been working toward addressing the crisis of representation in the entertainment industry with Annenberg's guidance for nearly two years. Damon told The Associated Press in July 2016 that an idea they were exploring was putting clauses in contracts to promote more inclusive hiring — in what appears to be an early precursor to the inclusion rider. That was around the time when J.J. Abrams and Ryan Murphy began actively trying to diversify their production teams.

## Hadid, Malik confirm breakup

Gigi Hadid and Zayn Malik are confirming their social media that their romance is over.

Supermodel Hadid, 22, and singer Malik, 25, each posted on Twitter on Tuesday about the end of their two-year relationship. Hadid wrote that she is "forever grateful for the love, time and life lessons" she and Malik shared, adding that "this is really no way to put into words what two people experience together over a few years." Malik said the two "had an incredibly meaningful, loving and fun relationship" and that he continues to respect and adore Hadid "as a woman and a friend."

## Madonna to direct film

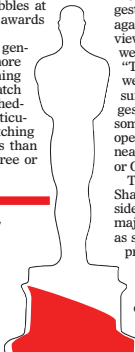
Madonna is piouetting back into the director's chair.

MGM Motion Picture Group president Jonathan Glickman says Tuesday that the pop music icon will direct a film based on ballet dancer Michaela DePrince's memoir "Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina."

DePrince overcame a childhood in war-stricken Sierra Leone to become a world-class ballerina. She made her debut at 17 in South Africa's Joburg Ballet and also appeared in Beyoncé's "Lemonade."

No cast or release date is set for "Taking Flight."

**By the time the Oscars are done, viewers who follow these things are probably exhausted from awards. Besides the Emmys, Golden Globes and Grammys, the calendar is filled with the actors, producers and directors guild awards, the MTV Movie Awards, the Billboard music awards ... competing country music organization awards ... You get the idea.**



# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Assault weapon sales continue at outdoor chains

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
Associated Press

DUNDEE, Mich. — Some big retailers have curbed sales of assault weapons after last month's school shooting in Florida. But others are sticking to their guns.

Several outdoor chains, including Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Gander Outdoors and Academy Sports, continue to sell assault-style rifles online and in stores as part of their mix of hunting equipment. The decision is in stark contrast to Dick's Sporting Goods, which recently banned sales of assault rifles, and Walmart, which stopped carrying assault rifles in 2015 but says it will no longer sell guns or ammunition to anyone under 21.

Outdoor stores are trying to stay under the radar in this politically charged climate. Bass Pro Sports — which owns Cabela's — and the firms that own Gander Outdoors and Academy Sports didn't respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. But the stores have clearly made the calculation that they could lose more than they might gain by taking a stand against assault-style weapons.

"They're not interested in being cultural warriors and they're probably trying to wait it out," said Raphael Thomdren, an associate professor of marketing at the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis. "Not everyone wants to be at the center of this thing."

Outdoor stores are in a tough position. Hunters account for a large part of their bottom lines, and any steps to curb gun sales could alienate loyal customers like Sherry Lindamood, who was shopping with her toddler granddaughter last week at a Cabela's in Dundee, Mich., a rural community about an hour southwest of Detroit.



Screen shot from cabela.com

**Outdoor retailers like Cabela's continue to sell assault-style rifles online and in stores, in contrast to many big retailers who reacted to last month's school shooting in Florida by curbing sales.**

"I don't think our rights should be impeached because of the wrongdoings of others," said Lindamood, who owns a handgun. Lindamood said she doesn't like assault rifles, but thinks Cabela's has a right to sell them.

A casual look around Cabela's revealed the strength of the store's gun business.

There weren't many people browsing the clothing racks or the camping equipment in the 225,000-square-foot store, which has its own indoor fish pond and dozens of taxidermic animals in a multistory display. But in the first-

floor gun department, a sign behind the counter showed 13 people waiting to be helped. The department even has its own check-out area.

Terry Hiske, a former environmental official for the state, was shopping for a new fish finder at the store. He said it doesn't bother him that Cabela's sells assault weapons, because he sees a limited use for them. Hiske himself owns a gun and occasionally hunts deer, but he doesn't own an assault weapon.

"Unfortunately it's usually the idiots who are buying them, who

like the biggest toy possible," he said.

Most gun buyers make their purchases at independent shops, not big retailers, according to the National Shooting Sports Federation, an advocacy group.

In 2016, big box stores like Bass Pro Shops or Dick's sold around 23 percent of traditional hunting rifles and 12 percent of assault-style rifles, which are dubbed "modern sporting rifles" in the industry.

But for outdoor retailers, that 23 percent is still very big business. Bass Pro Shops, which operates around 185 Bass Pro and Cabela's stores, is a private company and doesn't publicly release its financial results. But in 2016, before the companies merged, Cabela's said hunting equipment made up 48 percent of its merchandise revenue, or \$1.7 billion.

Before it was taken private in 2010, Gander Mountain — now Gander Outdoors — said hunting equipment made up 43 percent of its sales.

By contrast, the majority of Dick's business is selling things like golf clubs and apparel.

Joseph Feldman, a senior managing director at The Mettling Advisory Group, estimated that guns and ammunition account for just 8 percent of the company's sales, or around \$633 million in its most re-

cent fiscal year. Walmart doesn't break out sales from guns, but more than half of its revenue comes from groceries.

"It's a lot easier to take a moral stand when it's likely to cost you 1 percent of your sales than when it could cost you 10 percent of your sales," said Erik Gordon, a professor at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business.

Gordon said outdoor stores don't just risk gun sales, but also sales of accessories like camouflage jackets, hunting blinds and gun safes.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 15)	\$1.2697
Dollar buys (March 15)	69.7876
British pound (March 15)	\$1.43
Japanese yen (March 15)	109.00
South Korean won (March 15)	1,038.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3966
Canada (Dollar)	1.2946
China (Yuan)	6.3141
Denmark (Krone)	6.0281
Egypt (Pound)	17.6289
Euro	\$1.2357/0.8092
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8404
Hungary (Forint)	352.21
India (Rupee)	74.5325
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,936.00
Israel (Shekel)	3.4335
Japan (Yen)	106.50
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3000
Norway (Krone)	7.4644
Philippines (Peso)	52.02
Poland (Zloty)	3.40
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3095
South Korea (Won)	1,063.77
Sri Lanka (Rupee)	9.4474
Thailand (Baht)	31.113
Turkey (Lira)	1.8422

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### MARKET WATCH

March 13, 2018	
Dow Jones Industrials	-171.58
	25,007.03
Nasdaq composite	-77.31
	7,511.01
Standard & Poor's 500	-17.71
	2,765.31
Russell 2000	-9.01
	1,592.05

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.00
Federals funds market rate	1.42
3-month bill	1.67
30-year bond	3.10

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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## OPINION

## Hillary, please stop your wishful pity party

By KATHLEEN PARKER  
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

She can't let go.  
She can't stop talking about what happened. She wrote an entire book about it. Now she's telling people in other countries about why she should have won. In India last weekend, she told an audience that she won in all the smart, cool places and then hit a pandering low that puts a catalogue of others to shame. Hillary Clinton just can't quit herself.

Not then. Not now.  
In case you missed it, she won the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes but lost the Electoral College. Like it or not, our electoral system was set up this way — with both a popular vote and the Electoral College — ostensibly as a bulwark against mob rule. Americans hate or love the Electoral College, depending on whether it benefits them. And every few years, we want to scrap the whole thing and let the majority have its way. Or, should I say, let demographics and birth rates rule the day. Well, meanwhile, one happy gluglug these days. Donald Trump's unexpected victory meant that the “mob,” as perceived by Clinton supporters, merged with the Electoral College to pick a populist demagogue.

To say that a majority of the country awoke the morning after Election Day shell-shocked and mute is to understate the effect not so much of Clinton's loss but of Trump's win. As in, *What?!* On my block in very blue Washington, three neighbors simultaneously ventured outside to collect the newspaper or walk the dog and stood

staring at each other, wordlessly. It was as though the presidency had died.

But life does keep right along, doesn't it? A triumphant Trump hasn't slackened his pace as he shows one staff member, appointee or Cabinet member or another the most recent (but surely not last), was first Tuesday in the nick of a bad news cycle — a possible Republican loss in a Pennsylvania special election to fill a congressional seat and a lawsuit filed by an alleged former lover (Windy, Snowy, or some such), who was allegedly paid not to tell.

No good seems to come to those who serve in this administration. Cue Peter, Paul and Mary: *Where have all the soldiers gone? Long time passing. Where have all the soldiers gone, long time ago? Gone to graveyards, everyone; When will they ever learn? Will they ever learn?*

The same song could be sung about Clinton, if only she could hear the music. But then, she was always a little tone deaf. In India last week on a private trip with her friend and loyal adviser, Huma Abedin, Clinton gave global speeches as part of her ongoing global tour to promote, wait for it, “What Happened.”

At least Al Gore, who suffered a similar fate, winning the popular vote in 2000 but losing the Electoral College to George W. Bush, only went on to grow a beard and launch documentaries about the state of Earth. Clinton seems committed to a personal Groundhog Day in which she adds not new talents and feats of heroism but fresh targets to blame for her destiny denied.

She has variously blamed former FBI Director James Comey, Russia, sexists, “deplorables” and, in a speech in Mumbai,

racism. In one of her worst-yet panders — quite a distinction if you remember Hillary's 2007 speech in Selma, Ala. — she apparently noticed the darker pigmentation of her Indian audience and adapted.

She started out by reiterating her disdain for those who failed to recognize her virtues, saying that she won in places “that are optimistic, diverse, dynamic, moving forward,” compared with Trump voters who are always looking “backwards.” Then, mockingly, talking to “those people” who voted for him, she continued, “You know you didn't like black people getting rights, you don't like women, you know, getting jobs, you don't want to, you know, see Indian-Americans succeeding more than you are.”

Yikes. So, the people who voted for Trump resent Indian-Americans' success? Funny, because surely her audience was aware that President Trump selected Indian-American Nikki Haley as ambassador to the United Nations. And I bet they knew that Haley previously had been serving her second term as governor of South Carolina, where she was the first woman and ethnic minority to be elected governor in the history of the state.

Such a lack of awareness, combined with Clinton's clear disdain for millions of Americans whom she would have served, confirms that she shouldn't have won after all. By her insinuations, she has demonstrated a loathsome prejudice against the poorly educated and unemployed as well as rural whites, social conservatives and women who stay home with their children.

What happened, you ask?

That.

## Country music needs more politics, not less

By JOHN LINGAN  
Special to The Washington Post

Last month, the Country Music Association's charitable wing appointed culture war icon Mike Huckabee to its board of directors. Alas, the former Arkansas governor's good fortune barely carried into March. After widespread outcry, Huckabee resigned after only 24 hours, writing an essay titled “Hate Wins,” in which he blamed the incident on “irrational vitriol” for his “religious or political views.”

The most high-profile objection to Huckabee's appointment had come from openly gay musician and label owner Jason Owen, whose Sandbox Entertainment agency handles superstars such as Faith Hill and Little Big Town, as well as the estates of Johnny Cash and Hank Williams.

“This man has made it clear that my family is not welcome in his America,” Owen wrote in an open letter to the CMA and its foundation, which promotes school music programs. “I will not participate in any organization that elevates people like this to positions that amplify their sick voices.”

The CMA has long been expressly apolitical. In November, the organization tried to make political statements and questions at its annual awards show.

Huckabee, meanwhile, has never been so decorous. He has claimed that same-sex marriage is comparable to incest and polygamy, ruefully conflated the Supreme Court's 2015 decision on the matter to its 1857 Dred Scott ruling, and remains a steadfast supporter of anti-gay Kentucky clerk Kim Davis. Huckabee may be an advocate for music education and the National Endowment for the Arts, a eulogist for George Jones and the host of a television show from Nashville, but these and other statements — including his recent dismissal of businesses who cut ties with

the NRA as “cowardly” — clearly violate the CMA's own cautious positioning.

More and more, however, that positioning is a hindrance to the organization. The Huckabee affair is the CMA's second 24-hour course correction in five months. When the CMA instructed reporters to “refrain from focusing ... on the Las Vegas tragedy, gun rights, political affiliations or topics of the like,” artists' protest led them to rescind those guidelines the next day. The ceremony, held soon after the horrifying massacre of attendees at a Las Vegas country festival, ended up full of jokes and songs about contemporary politics. Maybe incidents like these will convince the CMA that neutrality is an impossible goal in a moment when the president himself has targeted whole countries and ethnicities for retribution. Such an aversion to politics and conflict is also unreflective of the genre's history: Country music has always thrived on and reflected cultural division.

Modern country was born when soldiers from rural areas returned from World War II and flocked to cities and colleges, thanks to a booming manufacturing sector and the G.I. Bill. Slightly displaced, these men and their families sought out down-home comforts, including roadhouse bars and twangy sounds. A new breed of country music was born, immediately embodied by Ernest Tubb and Hank Williams. These performers used drums and electric instruments to be heard over the rowdy venues, and their lyrics eschewed familiar pastoral and family themes. No more mama's Bible and green, green hills. Honky-tonk, as it became known, was all about whiskey-scented heartbreak and workmen's sorrows, the personal tolls of an uneasy new life apart from the land.

The country industry evolved with its audience. The major record labels' first Nashville offices opened in the early 1950s, and soon the genre's whole financial and

promotional apparatus settled in “Music City.” Country music has been uneasily contradictory ever since: a tradition- and authenticity-obsessed genre mostly contained within a single cosmopolitan city, with its reigning popular styles forever swinging between glossy, commercial sounds and rougher hewn ones.

The genre has produced no shortage of politically explicit statements on current events, whether Loretta Lynn's “The Pill,” about the liberating effects of birth control, or a single crooner's blandly utopian “We Shall Be Free.” Toby Keith's post-9/11 anthem “Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American),” inaugurated country's Fox News era, which recently bottomed out with the confusingly titled anti-Colin Kaepernick song, “Take a Knee ... My Ass!” by one of the genre's most conservative stars. Ultimately about the way life should be lived, which means they are political even when anodyne. The country audience doesn't only seek escape; it seeks validation — and always has.

Among the many powerful messages during last month's West Virginia teacher's strike, one veteran teacher's photograph carried a hand-drawn sign that borrowed John Cash's most famous couplet, “Students, Because You're Mine, I Walk the Line.” It read, alongside a black-and-white portrait of the legend. There is no better illustration of the political efficacy of country music across generations. The CMA was right to belatedly release Mike Huckabee, but next they should embrace figures who speak proudly and forcefully for the many listeners who rely on this music for sustenance and inspiration in threatening political times. That would be a gesture worthy of this complex, perennially divided music.

John Lingan is the author of “Homeplace: A Southern Town, a Country Legend, and the Last Days of a Mountaintop Honky-Tonk.”

## OPINION

## Trump will have a kindred spirit in Pompeo

By DAVID IGNATIUS

Washington Post Writers Group

**T**he Great Disrupter and the Boy Scout were never comfortable partners. So there was a sense of inevitability to President Donald Trump's announcement Tuesday that he was dumping Rex Tillerson as secretary of state and installing Mike Pompeo, the man he wanted in that job back in November.

The gregarious, risk-taking Pompeo has an easy rapport with Trump that the more cautious, reticent Tillerson never achieved. A successful secretary of state needs to be able to speak for the president — something Tillerson could never do and Pompeo will probably achieve from Day One.

Trump's tone in announcing the reshuffle was almost that of an exultant commander picking his "war cabinet," though the challenges for now will be diplomatic. In Trump's face-to-face negotiations with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, perhaps the apex of his presidency, Pompeo will be his key adviser and perhaps emissary.

"Tremendous energy, tremendous intellect," Trump said of Pompeo. "We are always on the same wavelength." As for Tillerson, Trump concluded, "We disagreed on things," citing the Iran nuclear deal as an example where the two "were not really thinking the same."

Tillerson was at his wounded best as he said an abrupt goodbye Tuesday afternoon. He was dignified and generous, even as the fatigue and stress were evident on his face. He righted the book on the table, the diplomatic strategy that engaged North Korea — but also conceded his inability to fashion clear policies for Syria, China or Russia. He dispensed with the usual ritual testimonial to a president who has treated him so poorly, instead thanking his colleagues

at the State Department and the Pentagon.

Tillerson's ouster capped a year of humiliating treatment from Trump. Representing a president who, through leaks and tweets, advertised his personal discomfort with the former Eagle Scout, Tillerson was in an untenable position.

The danger is that Pompeo, so much in synch with Trump, will remove the dampers that have sometimes tempered the president's disruptive instincts.

Tillerson offered solid, traditional foreign policy counsel. He opposed gutting the Iran nuclear deal, starting a trade war, relocating the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and other moves. He operated in tandem with Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis. This axis of caution has now been broken, perhaps leaving Mattis in a weakened position.

Pompeo has been among the most political CIA directors in modern history, acting as a quasi-policy adviser in addition to intelligence chief. CIA operators liked his gung-ho activism; analysts were warier, fearing that Pompeo would dilute the agency's independence. In his public appearances, Pompeo has been feisty and even combative in supporting the administration. He is unlikely to quit, and many ambassadors to vacant embassies, which would revive morale among foreign service officers.

Pompeo is a smooth communicator, and he may fix some of the obvious problems at State. He'll talk more with the press corps and State employees, both hungry for contact after the taciturn Trump. Colleagues are using the move to quickly demand ambassadors to vacant embassies, which would revive morale among foreign service officers.

Tillerson's biggest mistake was his seeming disregard for his own agency. He appeared to regard Foggy Bottom as an enemy



territory; only one senior aide, Policy Planning Director Brian Hook, spoke authoritatively for him on policy issues. Tillerson's tenure produced a genuine morale crisis at State, with precious talent walking out the door nearly every week.

Trump nominated a career CIA officer, Deputy Director Gina Haspel, as Pompeo's successor. She's popular with colleagues at Langley, but her confirmation hearings will be contentious because of her involvement in the CIA's secret detention and interrogation programs. Former Obama administration intelligence officials speak highly of her, which may blunt Democratic criticism. Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., the conservative firebrand, would have been a much more controversial choice, giving the CIA a face even more partisan than that of Pompeo.

The fulcrum in foreign policy has been Mattis and Tillerson. The center-weight will now shift to Trump and Pompeo. The policy process may be smoother, with a chief diplomat who knows (and shapes) the president's mind.

But Tillerson's demise removes a restraint on the president's sometimes impulsive behavior. Trump resented tutelage from a man who privately called him a "moron," but Tillerson's advice on Iran, Russia, China and North Korea was sensible and generally correct.

Now Trump will have a kindred spirit at State; the White House and Foggy Bottom will be going in the same direction, for better or worse. Pompeo will help in shaping the high-level diplomacy that has been a much more controversial choice, giving the CIA a face even more partisan than that of Pompeo.

## Pompeo can make State Department a force again

By JOSH ROGIN

The Washington Post

**F**or over a year, the State Department has found itself on the sidelines of the policymaking process. The secretary of state never earned the trust of the diplomats he was meant to lead, and the department came to be viewed as the opposition by a White House that is deeply skeptical of the establishment.

But with Rex Tillerson gone and Mike Pompeo on the way in, the State Department is set to regain its relevance. Pompeo is in a unique position to right the ship partly because he has more influence than President Donald Trump. Even more importantly, though, Pompeo is set to fix problems inside the State Department and repair the trust issues between the White House and Foggy Bottom.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said in a statement that Pompeo will be more effective on the world stage because foreign leaders will know he speaks for Trump. Graham also pointed out that as CIA director, Pompeo has been circling the globe and establishing relationships that he will be able to call on as America's top diplomat.

No one has a stronger relationship with Trump than Steve Goldstein. Goldstein is Graham said. "This relationship will empower him throughout his tenure as Secretary of State."

Tillerson did have a good personal relationship with Trump, as Trump said on the White House lawn Tuesday morning. But Trump always saw Tillerson as pushing back against his instincts and trying to constrain his more controversial initiatives.

"Tillerson was never part of Trump's core strategy team. Pompeo is," said Patrick Cronin, senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security. "Trump can now have the cohesion in his national security team that he wants."

A White House official told me that Pompeo was simply much better at interacting with the press and giving basic quotations in a respectful way and incorporating Trump's views into any policy proposal.

"Pompeo showed that you can talk to Trump without seeming to be condescending, something Tillerson struggled with," the official said.

As I reported in November, Pompeo has been quietly preparing to take over the State Department for months. Since last autumn, coordinating with Chief of Staff John Kelly, Pompeo has met and spoken with dozens of foreign policy professionals around Washington to help him prepare for his new job. Those who have spoken with him say he is planning to quickly address the severe staffing vacancies at the top of the State Department and already has many names in mind.

Pompeo will immediately get to choose, in coordination with the White House, new undersecretaries of state and assistant secretaries of state for political affairs, arms sales, intelligence, the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, refugees, human rights, civilian security and more. Expect traditional Republican hawks who did not sign letters opposing Trump during the primaries.

In a surprise move, the White House has already fired Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy Steve Goldstein. Goldstein issued a statement Tuesday saying Tillerson

had wanted to stay and told reporters Tillerson found out about his firing from Trump's tweet.

"The Secretary did not speak to the President this morning and is unaware of the reason," the statement said. "We wish Secretary-Designate Pompeo well."

On the organizational side, Pompeo is leaning toward discarding much of the State Department reorganization project Tillerson made his No. 1 mission. The effort has been hugely unpopular inside the building and poorly managed by the leadership team. Like he did at CIA, Pompeo is expected to shift around portfolios and responsibilities inside the current bureaucratic structure to create less havoc while still emphasizing his own priorities.

"As he tries to staff up, he is going to run into two problems," said a former senior national security official in the George W. Bush administration. "Can he find competent people who are willing to join the Trump administration, and can he get beyond the blacklist?"

Large parts of the State Department professional staff, including the Foreign Service, have experience working for both Republican and Democratic administrations. But they felt neglected and ignored by Trump's senior staff, creating a wave of resignations and retirements. If Pompeo can prove early on he respects their contributions, he can stem the bleeding and boost morale.

That would put the State Department back in a position of prominence as the Trump administration heads into several major diplomatic confrontations. Trump is expected to meet with Kim Jong Un in May,

and the State Department has an excellent team of Korea experts who have good relationships with North Korean officials.

The State Department is also working with European countries to negotiate adjustments to the Iran deal, without which Trump has promised to scuttle the agreement in May. As Trump mentioned Tuesday morning, Pompeo is much more skeptical of the Iran deal than Tillerson is.

Not everyone is convinced Pompeo will be better for the State Department or U.S. diplomacy than Tillerson.

"Rex Tillerson's tenure as secretary of state was obviously unsuccessful," said New York Rep. Nita Lowey, the ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations subcommittee on the State Department and foreign operations. "He was undermined at every turn by the White House, failed to achieve results for the United States on the world stage, and his misguided so-called reorganization of the State Department has plunged our diplomatic and development corps into crisis. Unfortunately, I see no reason for optimism that Mike Pompeo will be better."

Within the State Department, opinion is decidedly split. People are happy to see Tillerson go but divided on whether Pompeo will be better for them.

"Some people here say the State Department will be more plugged in and he will be a better manager. Other people say he definitely has strong ideological views and are terrified of him," one senior Foreign Service officer told me. "We'll see."

Josh Rogin is a columnist for the Global Opinions section of The Washington Post. He writes about foreign policy and national security.

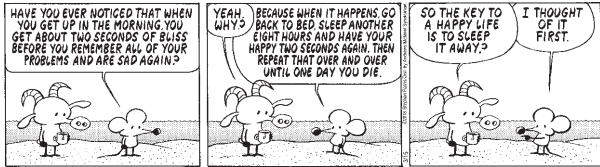
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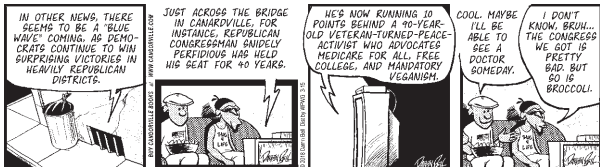
Pearls Before Swine



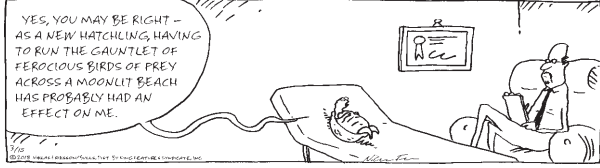
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18					19			20	21				
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42	43				44				45		46	47	48
49					50	51			52				
53					54				55				
56					57				58				

## ACROSS

- 1 Harsh criticism
- 5 Center
- 8 Spider creations
- 12 Zhivago's love
- 13 Parisian pal
- 14 Oodles
- 15 "So be it"
- 16 Wall St. debut
- 17 Concept
- 18 "Pop Goes the —"
- 20 Piquant
- 22 Oklahoma city
- 23 Berlin's country (Abbr.)
- 24 Intend
- 27 Centennial State
- 32 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
- 33 Bedazzle
- 34 Lemon
- 35 So darned cute
- 38 Tackled weeds
- 39 Corral
- 40 Caviar base
- 42 Shrewd
- 45 Van Gogh painting
- 49 Smooth-talking
- 50 Top card
- 52 Dazzle
- 53 Roof overhang
- 54 Train lines (Abbr.)

## DOWN

- 1 Imperfection
- 2 Hobbling
- 3 Region
- 4 Dorothy, for one
- 5 Yell "Taxi!"
- 6 Ref
- 7 Life stories
- 8 Legal release
- 9 Place of great wealth
- 10 Afrikaner
- 11 Remain
- 19 Harris or Asner
- 21 In the past
- 24 Soccer's Hamm
- 25 Finale
- 26 Like some parents
- 28 Barn bird
- 29 Most skeptical
- 30 Payable
- 31 Quirky
- 36 Deli sandwich
- 37 Busy insect
- 38 Stickup jobs
- 41 Choice word?
- 42 Mellows
- 43 Venetian
- 44 blind part
- 44 Lawman Wyatt
- 46 Dance move
- 47 Modern money
- 48 Tizzy
- 51 — -Magnon

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	A	I	L	Z	A	G	A	J	A	R
A	N	N	A	E	C	O	T	A	R	O
H	A	C	K	I	N	T	O	A	C	E
A	S	H	E	S	P	O	L	K	A	S
				R	O	O	D	P	E	R
D	U	B	S	L	I	C	E	Y	U	M
I	N	A	M	A	C	O	N	A	S	E
P	E	C	E	Y	E	S	G	N	A	T
				K	O	S	S	T	A	N
T	I	A	R	A	S	S	A	L	S	A
I	O	W	A	P	A	C	K	R	A	T
E	T	A	L	A	H	A	L	V	I	I
S	A	Y	S	M	I	T	Y	A	R	N

## 3-15

## CRYPTOQUIP

WLUYJUDJ WKYN USKPL U  
 OUDLHGPZUDZA PDSUYT  
 GVPDGV GKYNDTNULHKY:  
 "WKOVHWLHGULTJ ZUHLA."  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A VERY SMALL OCEAN WAVE IS BECOMING PROGRESSIVELY BIGGER, IS THAT A RIPPLE THREAT?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals G



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# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFC

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## College hockey

**Conference tournaments**  
-if necessary  
**ATLANTIC HOCKEY CONFERENCE**  
**Seminifinals**  
**Friday, March 16**  
At Rochester, N.Y.  
Robert Morris vs. Mercyhurst  
Air Force vs. Minnesota 5  
**Championship**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
At Rochester, N.Y.  
Seminifinal  
BIG TEN CONFERENCE  
**Seminifinals**  
**Friday, March 16**  
At Lake Placid, N.Y.  
Princeton vs. Cornell  
Harvard vs. Clarkson  
**Championship**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
At Lake Placid, N.Y.  
Seminifinal  
**HOCKEY EAST**  
**Seminifinals**  
**Friday, March 16**  
At Boston  
Boston University vs. Northeastern  
Providence vs. Northeastern  
**Championship**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
At Boston  
Seminifinal  
**NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HOCKEY CONFERENCE**  
**Seminifinals**  
**Friday, March 16**  
At St. Paul, Minn.  
Denver vs. Minnesota-Duluth  
St. Cloud vs. North Dakota  
**Championship**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
At St. Paul, Minn.  
Third Place  
TBA  
TBA  
**WESTERN COLLEGIATE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**Championship**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
Michigan Tech at Northern Michigan

## Pro baseball

**Spring training**  
**Tuesday's games**  
Baltimore vs. Miami  
Detroit 2, N.Y. Yankees 2  
Los Angeles 1, Miami 1  
Philadelphia 6, Tampa Bay 3  
Toronto 13, Atlanta 6  
Houston 6, N.Y. Mets (ss) 1  
Oakland 9, Kansas City 8  
Colorado 8, Seattle 4  
San Diego 7, Chicago Cubs (ss) 5  
Washington 7, N.Y. Mets (ss) 4  
Chicago Cubs (ss) 2, San Francisco 1  
**Wednesday's games**  
Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.  
N.Y. Mets vs. Miami  
N.Y. Yankees vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.  
Philadelphia vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.  
Louis vs. Houston at West Palm Beach, Fla.  
Tampa Bay vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.  
Chicago Cubs vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.  
Chicago White Sox vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix  
A. Angels vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.  
Cincinnati vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
San Francisco vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.  
Colorado vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.  
**Thursday's games**  
Baltimore vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.  
Detroit vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.  
Houston vs. Washington at West Palm Beach, Fla.  
Minnesota vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla.  
Pittsburgh vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.  
Toronto vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Miami vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.  
Arizona vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.  
Cincinnati vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.  
Kansas City vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.  
Washington vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.  
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
Chicago White Sox vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz.  
San Francisco vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.  
Seattle vs. Oakland at Mesa, Ariz.

## College basketball

**Men's NIT**  
**First Round**  
**Tuesday, March 13**  
Baylor 80, Wagner 59  
Louisville 66, Northern Kentucky 58  
Middle Tennessee 91, Vermont 64  
Western Kentucky 79, Boston College 62  
Oklahoma State 69, Florida Gulf Coast 68  
Oregon State 64, Hampton 63  
Oregon 59, Rider 86  
Pitt Mary's 89, St. Louis 45  
Southern Cal 103, UNC Asheville 98, 20T  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
Harvard (18-13) at Marquette (22-11)  
Louisiana-Lafayette (27-6) at LSU (17-14)  
Temple (17-15) at Penn State (21-13)  
Nebraska (22-10) at Mississippi State (22-11)  
UCB (22-10) at Utah (19-11)  
BYU (24-10) at Stanford (18-15)  
Boise State (23-8) at Washington (20-12)  
**CBI**  
**First Round**  
**Tuesday, March 13**  
Utah Valley 87, Eastern Washington 65  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
Miami (Ohio) (16-17) at Campbell (16-15)  
Seminifinal  
Texas Rio Grande Valley (15-17) at New Orleans (15-18)  
North Texas (15-17) at South Dakota (26-8)  
Colgate (19-13) at San Francisco (18-15)  
Creighton (18-14) at Grand Canyon (18-15)  
Central Arkansas (17-16) at Seattle (20-13)  
**CIT**  
**First Round**  
**Monday, March 12**  
Central Michigan 84, Fort Wayne 89  
Drake 80, Abilene Christian 73, OT  
Liberty 65, NC A&T 57  
**Second Round**  
**Tuesday, March 13**  
First-round winner vs. Wake Forest (22-12)  
First-round winner vs. Portland State (20-13)  
First-round winner vs. Sam Houston State (19-14)  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
Niagara (19-13) at Eastern Michigan (21-12)  
St. Francis (Pa.) (18-12) at Illinois-Chicago (16-17)  
UTSA (19-14) at Lamar (19-13)  
**Thursday, March 15**  
Louisiana-Monroe (16-15) at Austin Peay (18-14)  
**NCAA Men's Division II Tournament**  
**Regional Finals**  
**Monday, March 12**  
West Region  
California Baptist 80, Oregon 76  
**Tuesday, March 13**  
Atlantic Region  
At Petersburg, Va.  
East Stroudsburg 84, Springfield 72  
**Central Region**  
At Maryville, Mo.  
Northern State 90, Minnesota State-Mankato 83  
**East Region**  
At Syracuse, N.Y.  
Le Moyne 76, Bloomfield 69  
**Midwest Region**  
At Big Rapids, Mich.  
West Texas A&M 65, Findlay 65  
**South Region**  
At Atlanta  
Barry 79, Eckerd 72  
**Southeast Region**  
At Hargrave, Tenn.  
Queens (NC) 69, Lincoln Memorial 51  
**West Region**  
At Canyon, Texas  
West Texas A&M 65, Permian Basin 87  
**At Sioux Falls, S.D.**  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Tuesday, March 20**  
West Texas A&M (32-10) vs. Le Moyne (27-6)  
Florida State (35-1) vs. Barry (23-8)  
Queens (NC) (31-3) vs. California Baptist (28-9)  
Northern State (34-3) vs. East Stroudsburg (27-5)  
**NCAA Men's Division III Tournament**  
**Seminifinals**  
At Salem (Va.) Civic Center  
**Friday, March 16**  
Ramapo (25-6) vs. Wisconsin-Oshkosh (24-7)  
Marquette (28-8) vs. Springfield (22-8)  
**Championship**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
Seminifinal winners  
**NAIA Men's Tournament**  
At Kansas City, Mo.  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
William Carey (25-5) vs. Life (20-11)  
St. Alexander (25-7) vs. Lewis & Clark State (23-9)  
Georgetown (Ky.) (25-6) vs. Central Baptist (21-8)  
Oklahoma City (23-8) vs. Xavier-Louisville (24-5)  
LSU Shreveport (27-4) vs. Harris-Stowe (23-10)

**Central Methodist (27-5) vs. Wayland Baptist (25-6)**  
The Master's (29-2) vs. Peru State (21-13)  
Westmont (24-7) vs. Dillard (20-9)  
**Thursday, March 15**  
Dalton State (24-8) vs. Cumberland (Ky.) (21-9)  
Montana Western (25-7) vs. Southwestern Assemblies (24-9)  
Carroll (Mo.) (27-5) vs. Lindsey Wilson (23-8)  
Pittsburg State (25-8) vs. Langston (20-11)  
Cumbria (Mo.) (27-4) vs. Campbellsville (23-8)  
Texas Wesleyan vs. Graceland (Iowa) (24-10)  
William Penn (27-4) vs. Science & Arts (OKLA.) (21-10)  
Hope International (25-5) vs. Our Lady of the Lake (21-11)  
**WNIT**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
Southern (17-13) at Alabama (17-13)  
Jacksonville (24-8) at UCF (21-10)  
Saint Joseph's (18-14) at Seton Hall (16-15)  
**Thursday, March 15**  
Houston (20-11) at South Dakota (26-8)  
Western Illinois (22-9) at Colorado State (20-11)  
Marquette (19-12) at Michigan State (17-13)  
Mary's (Cal.) (20-10) at New Mexico (22-9)  
Rice (22-9) at Rice (22-9)  
Lamar (22-7) at TCU (19-12)  
Missouri State (20-11) at Louisiana Tech (19-11)  
Purdue (18-13) at UPUI (22-9)  
Middle Tennessee (22-11) at Ball State (24-6)  
TCU Martin (19-14) at Indiana (17-14)  
Milwaukee (20-11) at Northern Iowa (19-13)  
New Mexico State (18-12) at Wyoming (21-10)  
Idaho (19-13) at UC Davis (25-6)  
Saint Louis (17-15) at Kansas State (16-13)  
UNLV (19-11) at Utah (17-13)  
Bucknell (22-9) at James Madison (21-11)  
Radford (23-8) at Penn State (16-21)  
ETSU (22-12) at West Madison (21-10)  
Marist (20-9) at New York State (19-14)  
Duquesne (22-3) at Miami (Ohio) (21-10)  
Brigham Young (24-6) at Georgia Tech (18-13)  
Whittanog (17-12) at UA8 (26-6)  
Chattanooga (22-10) at Toledo (17-14)  
Liberty (NY) (24-7) vs. Penn State (16-21)  
Delaware (18-12) at Georgetown (15-15)  
Harvard (18-12) at Fordham (22-9)  
Robert Morris (22-9) at St. Joseph's (22-9)  
Stevenson (25-6) at George Mason (22-9)  
Navy (25-7) at Virginia Tech (18-13)  
**WBI**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
Binghamton (19-11) at CSU Bakersfield (16-15)  
St. Francis (22-16) at Youngstown State (16-14)  
Shawnee (18-13) at Nevada (17-12)  
SIU-Edwardsville (17-14) at Central Arkansas (22-9)  
UC Irvine (18-13) at Nevada (17-12)  
**NCAA Women's Division II Tournament**  
**At Sioux Falls, S.D.**  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Monday, March 19**  
Indiana State (28-1) vs. Central Missouri (27-3)  
Montana (23-3) vs. Ashland (34-0)  
Concord-Newman (32-2) vs. Union (Tenn.) (30-9)  
Carson State Billings (25-11) vs. Lubbock Christian (31-1)  
**NCAA Women's Division III Tournament**  
**Seminifinals**  
**At Rochester, Mich.**  
**Friday, March 16**  
Amherst (31-0) vs. Thomas More (30-1)  
Bowdoin (28-2) vs. Wartburg (31-0)  
**Championship**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
Seminifinal winners  
**NAIA Women's Tournament**  
At Billings, Mont.  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
Columbia (Mo.) vs. Benedictine (Kan.)  
LSU Shreveport vs. Menlo (Calif.)  
Georgia Southern vs. Fairleigh (D.C.)  
Montana Wesleyan vs. Dillard (La.)  
Need-Hardman vs. The Master's (Calif.)  
Central Methodist vs. Arizona Christian  
Science & Arts (OKLA.) vs. Rocky Mountain  
Lindsey Wilson vs. Martin Methodist  
Our Lady of the Lake vs. Loyola (La.)  
Lebanon Valley vs. Curry (Pa.)  
MidAmerica Nazarene vs. Lindenwood-Wellspring  
Oklahoma City vs. Providence (Mont.)  
Wayland Baptist vs. Lyon  
Shawnee State vs. The Master's View  
Carroll (Mo.) vs. William Penn  
Vanguard vs. Bethel (Tenn.)

## Tennis

**BNP Paribas Open**  
**Tuesday**  
At The Indian Wells Tennis Garden  
Wells Fargo Wells Fargo  
**Purse: Men: \$7.9 million (Masters 1000)**  
**Women: \$5.6 million (Premier)**  
**Singles**  
**First Round**  
Pierre-Hugues Herbert, France, def. Gael Monfils, France, 6-2, 6-1  
Philipp Kohlschreiber (3), Germany, def. Martin Kližan (2), Croatia, 6-4, 6-4  
Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-4, 6-4  
Juan Martin del Potro (6), Argentina, def. David Ferrer (29), Spain, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 6-0  
Milos Raonic (32), Canada, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 7-5, 6-4, 6-2  
Marcelo Baghdatis, Cyprus, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 7-6 (5), 6-4  
Sam Querrey (18), United States, def. Yuki Bhambhani, India, 6-4 (4), 6-4, 6-4  
Feliciano Lopez (20), Spain, def. Jack Sock (8), United States, 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4  
**Women**  
**Fourth Round**  
Simona Halep (1), Romania, def. Wang Qiang, China, 6-3, 5-6, 6-1  
Petra Martić, Croatia, def. Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-6 (4)  
Karolina Pliskova (5), Czech Republic, def. Angelique Kerber, United States, 6-1, 7-6 (2)  
Gaël Monfils, France, def. Maria Sakkari, Greece, 6-1, 5-7, 6-1  
Venus Williams, United States, def. Anastasiya Sevastova (2), Latvia, 7-6 (6), 6-4  
Daria Kasatkina (20), Russia, def. Caroline Wozniacki (2), Denmark, 6-4, 7-5  
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. Spain, def. Danielle Collins, United States, 6-2, 6-4  
Gaël Monfils, France, def. Caroline Garcia (7), France, 6-1, 6-1  
**Doubles**  
**Second Round**  
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 13-11  
Bob and Mike Bryan (7), United States, def. Pablo Carrero Busta and David Marrero, Spain, 6-2, 6-2  
**Women**  
**Quarterfinals**  
Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Xu Yifan (3), China, def. Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (4), Spain, 7-6 (7), 5-7, 12-10  
Timea Babos, Hungary, and Kristina Mladenovic, France, def. Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (4), Spain, 7-6 (7), 5-7, 12-10  
Niculescu, Romania, and Andrea Sestini Hlavackova (3), Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4  
Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Barbara Strýcová, Czech Republic, def. Varinia Morikawa, United States, and Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, 6-4, 6-1  
**College baseball**  
**Tuesday's scores**  
**SOUTH**  
Asbury 4, Kentucky Christian 0, six innings  
Detroit 12, Georgia Tech 7  
Belmont 8, Lipscomb 7  
Campbell 9, Rider 0  
Charlotte 13, Wake Forest 1  
Christian Brothers 10, Henderson State 7  
Clemson 5, Charleston Southern 0  
Cumberland at Milligan, ppd.  
E. Kentucky 7, W. Kentucky 5  
Florida State 5, 6  
George Mason 12, Fla. 8  
Gwinnett 8, Bryan 3  
Long 10, Tusculum 5  
Lindsey Wilson 15, Martin Methodist 3  
Middle Tennessee 9, Austin Peay 7  
North Carolina 1, NC A&T 0  
State 15, UNC Asheville 11  
Pittsburgh at Youngstown St., ppd.  
Tennessee 8, Chattanooga 1  
Saint Joseph's 10, Notre Dame 8  
Tennessee State 10, Tennessee Vols 0  
Tenn. Wesleyan 1, Cumberland (Tenn.) 0  
Texas Tech 8, Louisville 4  
Cornell at The Citadel, 6cd  
UMass 10, Bucknell 9  
Union (Ky.) 10, Viterbo 0  
Wofford 11, Union (Tenn.) 5  
West Virginia 13, Christian Brothers 3  
Utter 15, Marist 4  
**SOUTHWEST**  
Houston Baptist 3, Texas Rio Grande Valley 2  
**FAR WEST**  
Pepperdine 11, New Mexico 7  
**NFL calendar**  
**March 14** - 2018 league calendar begins with the NFL's first regular season game, the AFC South's Jacksonville Jaguars at the Tennessee Titans.  
**March 25-28** - Annual league meeting, Orlando, Fla.  
**April 2** - Clubs that hired a new head coach after the end of the 2017 regular season begin their offseason workout programs.  
**April 16** - Clubs with returning head coaches begin their offseason workout programs.  
**April 26-28** - Deadline for restricted free agent sign-off sheets.  
**May 16-28** - NFL draft, Arlington, Texas  
**May 21-23** - Spring league meeting, Atlanta.

## Deals

**Tuesday's transactions**  
**BASEBALL**  
**American League**  
**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** - Signed RHP Alec Asher to Norfolk (IL). Agreed to terms with LHP Hunter Cervenha on a minor league contract.  
**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** - Options RHP Ian Snell (2018), RHP Ryan Lugo (2019), RHP Charles (2019), RHP Jose Jimenez and LHP Dan Clark (2019). Signed RHP Luis Alexander and RF Mickey Adolfo to Winston-Salem (Carolina).  
**DETROIT TIGERS** - Signed LHP Ryan Carpenter, C Grayson Greiner and CF Michael Rasmussen to Norfolk (IL). Signed RHP Sandy Baer to Erie (ECL). Signed OF Adolfo Jimenez to Lakeland (FL).  
**MINNESOTA TWINS** - Options LHPs Adam Eaton, RHP Francisco Lirio and RHPs Aaron Slegers and John Curtis to Rochester (IL) and RHP Fernando Romero to Chattanooga (SL).  
**NEW YORK YANKEES** - Options C Kyle Higashioka and INF Gleyber Torres to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL) and reassigned them to minor league camp.  
**OAKLAND ATHLETICS** - Options RHP Jose Ramirez to Las Vegas (IL) and RHP Jose Mateo and LHP Jairo Labrout to Nashville (FL).  
**TENNESSEE RANGERS** - Options OF Nathaniel Lowe, INF Ronald Guzman, C/INF Ishai Kutscher and RHPs Ryan Lugo and RHPs Aaron Slegers and John Curtis to Rochester (IL) and RHP Fernando Romero to Chattanooga (SL).  
**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** - Options C Nicholas Ort to Round Rock (TX).  
**TORONTO BLUE JAYS** - Options C Nicholas McGuire to Buffalo (IL). C Danny Janney to Buffalo (IL).  
**CHICAGO CUBS** - Options RHPs Jett Blevins, Alex Miller, Jose Mazzoni and Luke Farrell; 2B David Bote and LHPs Robby Scott and RHPs Jose Ramirez (PCL). Reassigned INF Chesney Young and OF Jacob Hennemann to their minor league camp.  
**CINCINNATI REDS** - Assigned INF Dillon Davis to Louisville (IL).  
**NEW YORK METS** - Options RHPs Jacob deGrom, Johan Santana, Jose Molina and Corey Oswalt to their minor league camp. Reassigned RHP Kevin McSwain to the Las Vegas (IL) minor league camp.  
**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES** - Agreed to terms with LHP Tim Lincecum on a minor league contract.  
**WASHINGTON NATIONALS** - Options RHP Wander Suero, OF Rafael Bautista and Joaquin Benoit to the Las Vegas (IL) minor league camp. Reassigned LHP Ryan Harper, RHP Jarrod Samardzija and RHPs Ryan Zimmerman and Ryan Zimmerman to their minor league camp.  
**BASKETBALL**  
**National Basketball Association**  
**ATLANTA HAWKS** - Signed G Darnell Lee to the Charlotte (NBA) G League.  
**LOS ANGELES LAKERS** - Signed F Travon Williams to the Charlotte (NBA) G League.  
**NEW YORK KNICKS** - Signed F Troy Williams for the remainder of the season.  
**MINNESOTA LINCOLN WOOD** - Signed G Tanisha Wright.  
**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
**NFL** - Named Maryann Turkle chief operating officer.  
**ARIZONA CARDINALS** - Released RB Adrian Peterson.  
**ATLANTA FALCONS** - Signed CB Leon McQuay to the Charlotte (NBA) G League. Signed CB Leon McQuay to the Charlotte (NBA) G League.  
**ATLANTA FALCONS** - Released RB Danny Woodhead.  
**BUFFALO BILLS** - Agreed to terms with RB LeSean Thomas on a one-year contract.  
**CHICAGO BEARS** - Place right of first refusal tenders on WR Joshua Bellamy, WR Kevin White, TE Cameron Brate and WR Meredith.  
**DETROIT LIONS** - Re-signed S Tavon Austin.  
**GREEN BAY PACKERS** - Released WR Jordy Nelson.  
**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** - Announced the signing of RB Leonard Fournette to a one-year contract.  
**MIAMI DOLPHINS** - Released LB Lawrence Timmons.  
**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** - Released TE Brent Celek.  
**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** - Reassigned D Madison Boyer to Hershey (AHL).  
**BAY BUCCANNERS** - Re-signed WR Mike Evans to a five-year contract. Reassigned TE Cameron Brate to a six-year contract.  
**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
**BUFFALO SABRES** - Recalled G Linus Ullmark from Rochester (AHL) to Buffalo (NHL).  
**NEW YORK RANGERS** - Recalled D Ryan McDonagh from Hartford (AHL) to New York (NHL).  
**PHILADELPHIA FLYERS** - Loaned G Anthony Stolarz to Reading (ECHL).  
**ST. LOUIS BLUES** - Reassigned D Ville Husso to San Antonio (AHL).  
**WASHINGTON CAPITALS** - Reassigned D Madison Boyer to Hershey (AHL).  
**BIG EAST CONFERENCE** - Signed commissioner Val Ackerman to a three-year contract, extending through 2020-21.  
**IOWA STATE** - Announced sophomore men's basketball G Jakoby Long to the team.  
**WASHINGTON STATE** - Announced women's basketball coach June Jaeger will not return to the team.  
**YALE** - Named Kristen O'Rourke assistant field hockey coach.

## NHL

## Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

	Atlantic Division				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Tampa Bay	70	48	18	4	100
Boston	68	44	16	8	96
Toronto	69	40	22	7	87
Florida	67	34	26	7	75
Montreal	70	26	32	12	64
Detroit	69	26	32	11	63
Ottawa	69	25	33	11	61
Buffalo	69	22	35	12	56
	Metropolitan Division				
Washington	70	40	26	4	85
Pittsburgh	70	40	26	4	84
Philadelphia	70	35	24	11	81
Columbus	70	37	28	5	79
New Jersey	69	35	28	5	78
Carolina	70	30	32	11	71
N.Y. Islanders	69	30	29	10	70
N.Y. Rangers	70	31	32	7	69

## Metropolitan Division

Western Conference					
	Central Division				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Nashville	69	45	14	10	100
Winnipeg	70	41	19	10	92
Minnesota	70	39	24	7	85
Colorado	69	37	24	8	82
Dallas	70	38	26	6	82
St. Louis	69	37	27	5	79
Chicago	70	30	32	8	68

## Western Conference

## Central Division

Anaheim	70	34	24	12	80
Calgary	71	35	26	10	80
Edmonton	69	30	35	4	64
Vancouver	70	25	36	9	59
Arizona	69	23	35	11	57

**Note:** Two points for a win, one for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild card teams advance to playoffs.

**Monday's games**

## Pacific Division

Columbus 5, Montreal 2  
N.Y. Rangers 6, Carolina 3  
Ottawa 5, Florida 3  
St. Louis 4, Anaheim 2  
San Jose 5, Detroit 3  
Los Angeles 3, Vancouver 0

**Tuesday's games**

Boston 6, Carolina 4  
Montreal 4, Dallas 2  
Ottawa 7, Tampa Bay 4  
Nashville 2, Winnipeg 1

## Arizona

## Vegas 3, Philadelphia 2

## Washington 3, Winnipeg 2, OT

## Columbus 5, Montreal 1

## N.Y. Rangers 6, Carolina 3

## Ottawa 5, Florida 3

## St. Louis 4, Anaheim 2

## San Jose 5, Detroit 3

## Los Angeles 3, Vancouver 0

## Tuesday's games

## Boston 4, Dallas 2

## Ottawa 3, Tampa Bay 4

## Nashville 3, Winnipeg 1

## Colorado 5, Minnesota 1

## Calgary 1, Edmonton 0

## Arizona 4, Los Angeles 3, SO

## Wednesday's games

## Dallas at Toronto

## Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers

## San Jose at Edmonton

## New Jersey at Vegas

## Vancouver at Anaheim

## Thursday's games

## Washington at N.Y. Islanders

## Columbus at Philadelphia

## Toronto at Buffalo

## Pittsburgh at Montreal

## Boston at Florida

## Chicago at Winnipeg

## Colorado at St. Louis

## Los Angeles at Anaheim

## Nashville at Arizona

## Friday's games

## N.Y. Islanders at Washington

## Dallas at Colorado

## San Jose at Calgary

## Vancouver at Minnesota

## Manitoba at Vegas

## Saturday's games

## Bruins 6, Hurricanes 4

## Boston 1, Tampa Bay 3

## Carolina 1, St. Louis 4

## Rif-Nash, Pastrnak, 19:49

## Second Period—2, Carolina, Aho 25

## (Carolina: Faulk, 10:02; Aho, 10:02; Carolina, Teravainen 21 (Faulk, Aho), 12:06

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## COLLEGE BASKETBALL/NBA/NFL

## Memphis fires Smith

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Tubby Smith has been fired as Memphis men's basketball coach after two seasons amid dropping attendance and donations to the athletic department.

Smith told reporters he was no longer coach as he left a meeting Wednesday with Memphis President M. David Rudd and athletic director Tom Bowen.

Memphis issued a statement saying only that an agreement of "separation" had been reached in the "best financial interest" of the university with details still to be finalized.

Smith went 40-26 at Memphis, including 21-13 this season. The Tigers won seven of their final nine games before losing Saturday 70-60 to No. 8 Cincinnati in the American Athletic Conference Tournament semifinals, their third loss to the AAC champions this season.

He came to Memphis in April 2016 as one of only two coaches to lead five different schools to

the NCAA Tournament. Now 66, Smith leaves without taking Memphis to any postseason tournament in his two seasons. Smith is 597-302 with a national title with Kentucky in 1998. He also has worked at Tulsa, Georgia and Minnesota during a head coaching career that began in 1991.

When Josh Pastner left for Georgia Tech, Memphis hired Smith away from Texas Tech in April 2016 with hopes of switching to the Big 12 and gave him a five-year contract for \$15.45 million that paid him \$2.9 million for this season with \$3.25 million due each of the next three seasons.

Smith went 19-13 in his first season and followed that with a major roster turnover bringing in 11 new players.

Attendance dropped to 6,225 this season, Memphis' lowest attendance since 1969-70 and putting the university at risk of missing out on a \$800,000 payment from the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies who control the FedExForum. The Commercial Appeal also reported donations to the

athletic department dropped \$1.1 million in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

That combination hurts Memphis, which failed in its 2016 bid to join the Big 12.

Memphis' biggest win this season came Feb. 22 with a 91-85 upset of No. 23 Houston, only the second such win by the Tigers under Smith. The Tigers finished the season with an RPI of 106 and a strength of schedule of 112 a decade after losing in overtime of the national championship under then-coach John Calipari.

Penny Hardaway is a top candidate to replace Smith.

A Memphis native, Hardaway played at then-Memphis State between 1991 and 1993 under coach Larry Finch before leaving for the NBA. Hardaway currently coaches an AAU team and also coaches Memphis East High School, which will be playing for a third straight Tennessee Class AAA title this week. Forward James Wiseman, the No. 2 prospect in 2019 nationally, plays for Hardaway on both teams.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Pacers' Bojan Bogdanovic, center, goes up for a shot between the 76ers' Dario Saric, left, and Joel Embiid on Tuesday in Philadelphia. Indiana won 101-98.

## NBA roundup

## Turner helps Indy edge Philadelphia

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Myles Turner scored 25 points, including two clutch free throws with 21.5 seconds remaining, and the Indiana Pacers beat the Philadelphia 76ers 101-98 on Tuesday night in a possible Eastern Conference playoff preview.

Thaddeus Young added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the surprising Pacers (40-28), who overcame an off shooting night by leading scorer Victor Oladipo to win their third straight and improve to a season-high 12 games over .500. They were coming off a 99-97 victory at Boston on Sunday night.

Joel Embiid had 29 points and 12 rebounds and Ben Simmons finished with 10 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for the 76ers (36-30), who had won 13 straight home games.

**Timberwolves 116, Wizards 111:** Minnesota star Karl-Anthony Towns recovered from a shot to the mouth that left him down on the court and finished with 37 points and 10 rebounds. Towns shot 13 for 17, including making all three of his three-point attempts, and showed no ill effects after getting knocked in the face with about a minute left in the first half.

**Cavaliers 129, Suns 107:** LeBron James had 28 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for his 69th career triple-double, powering the visiting Cavaliers to the wire-to-wire victory.

James is averaging a triple-double over his last 15 games.

Jordan Clarkson scored 23 points and Kyle Korver had 22 for the Cavaliers, who bounced back from losses to the Clippers and Lakers with a dominating victory.

Korver went 5-for-6 from the three-point range in his first start of the season.

**Raptors 116, Nets 102:** Jonas Valanciunas had 26 points and 14 rebounds, and visiting Toronto earned its ninth straight win.

DeMar DeRozan and reserve Fred VanVleet scored 15 points each. Kyle Lowry added 11 points and 11 assists for the Eastern Conference-leading

Raptors, who held Brooklyn to 35 points after halftime and won a franchise record-tying seventh straight road game.

**Jazz 110, Pistons 79:** Rudy Gobert had 22 points and 12 rebounds, sending host Utah to its seventh consecutive victory.

The Jazz had six players score in double figures. Joe Ingles added 17 points, seven assists and seven rebounds, and Jonas Jerebko had 16 points and eight rebounds.

**Lakers 112, Nuggets 103:** Isaiah Thomas scored 12 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and the host Lakers rallied for the win.

Julius Randle and Kyle Kuzma each had 26 points and 13 rebounds for Los Angeles, which trailed by as many as 13. Kuzma had only two points in the first half.

**Pelicans 119, Hornets 115:** Anthony Davis had 31 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots, leading host New Orleans to the victory.

Rajon Rondo added 12 points and 17 assists and Jrue Holiday highlighted a 25-point, nine-assist performance with 10 points in the final 2:39, starting with a 3 that put the Pelicans in front.

**Mavericks 110, Knicks 97:** Harrison Barnes scored 30 points, and the Mavericks handed the host Knicks their eighth straight loss.

Dallas couldn't stop New York early, and then dominated the second half to win for the third time in four games, with only a loss to NBA-leading Houston in that stretch.

**Clippers 112, Bulls 106:** DeAndre Jordan dominated with 29 points and 18 rebounds, leading the Clippers to the road win.

Lou Williams scored 26 and Tobias Harris had 18 points for Los Angeles, which took control late in the third quarter on the way to its fifth win in six games.

**Spurs 108, Magic 72:** LaMarcus Aldridge scored 24 points, helping host San Antonio stop a three-game slide.

The Spurs led 62-37 at halftime and extended that cushion to 39 entering the fourth quarter.

## NFL free agency roundup

## Packers cut longtime WR Nelson

Associated Press

Adrian Peterson's short stint in Arizona is over. Jordy Nelson long and productive stay in Green Bay has ended, too.

Meanwhile, Drew Brees is staying put in the Big Easy and Kirk Cousins will make his first visit as a free agent to Minnesota. The Vikings long have been considered a natural landing spot for one of the most valuable quarterbacks available.

One day before the league's new year begins, veteran running back Peterson was released by the Cardinals on Tuesday, and receiver Nelson — Aaron Rodgers' favorite target — was let go by the Packers.

Seven-time All-Pro running back Peterson began last season with New Orleans but, after barely playing there, was dealt to the Cardinals. Peterson rushed for 134 yards in a win over Tampa Bay and 159 in a win over San Francisco. In six games, he gained 448 yards on 129 carries for Arizona before being sidelined with a neck injury.

Peterson, who turns 33 next week, ranks 12th in the NFL in career rushing with 12,276 yards.

Nelson had 550 receptions and 69 touchdown catches in 10 seasons in Green Bay. But his production declined last season with Rodgers sidelined much of the year by a collarbone injury. He missed the 2015 season with a major knee injury, and then was the 2016 Comeback Player of the Year.

"We cannot thank Jordy enough

for all that he has given the Green Bay Packers and our community for the past 10 years," general manager Brian Gutekunst said. "He has been an exemplary professional and teammate and greatly contributed to our success."

Brees has agreed to a two-year, \$59 million extension with New Orleans, with \$27 million guaranteed the first year, two people familiar with the contract told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the agreement has not been announced.

Brees is 39 and wants to finish his career in New Orleans, where he has played since 2006, won a Super Bowl and led what has been one of the most productive offenses in the NFL since he and coach Sean Payton arrived.

Cousins will visit with the Vikings on Wednesday, agent Mike McCartney said. ESPN reported that Cousins will sign with the Vikings, but McCartney said a decision has been made yet by his client.

The Jets and Cardinals also made sense as fits for the 29-year-old who played consecutive seasons for Washington on franchise tags. New York, however, re-signed last year's starter, veteran Josh McCown, and Arizona made a deal with Minnesota's Sam Bradford.

Other moves:

■ Super Bowl champion Philadelphia lost two tight ends, cutting veteran Brent Celek, then saw Trey Burton agree to a four-year, \$32 million contract with Chicago. Five-time Pro Bowl de-

fensive tackle Haloti Ngata and linebacker Corey Nelson have agreed to one-year contracts with the Eagles.

■ Tennessee agreed with New England cornerback and one-time Super Bowl hero Malcolm Butler on a five-year deal worth more than \$60 million. Agent Derek Simpson told The Associated Press that Butler will sign the deal including \$30 million guaranteed once free agency begins.

Butler spent the past four seasons with the New England Patriots and has eight career interceptions. He was benched for the Super Bowl in February.

■ Jacksonville linebacker Paul Posluszny, 33, the second-leading tackle in franchise history, retired after 11 seasons. Posluszny started his career in Buffalo before playing the final seven years in Jacksonville. He led the Jaguars in tackles five times. His 973 stops trail only Daryl Smith (1,089) in Jacksonville's record book.

■ A person familiar with negotiations says the Jacksonville Jaguars have agreed to a contract with free-agent cornerback D.J. Hayden.

The person says Hayden will sign a three-year deal Thursday. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

■ A person familiar with the negotiations says the New York Giants have an agreement with offensive tackle Nate Solder.

NFL Network reported the Giants will give Solder a four-year, \$62 million deal.



# COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Mid-major stars look to stand out

By STEVE MEGARREE

Associated Press

Quinnipiac forward Jen Fay enjoyed her team's NCAA Tournament breakthrough so much that she wants to deliver a repeat performance.

Fay played a vital role in Quinnipiac's improbable drive to the Sweet 16 last year as a No. 12 seed. The 6-foot junior returns to the NCAA's this year as Quinnipiac (27-5) faces Miami (21-10) on Saturday at Storrs, Conn., in a rematch of a 2017 second-round game.

"We're always kind of seen as the underdog, but I think this year it's more of a mentality that this obviously is feasible," Fay said. "We did it last year."

Fay is one of several noteworthy women's players from one-bid leagues savoring the opportunity to face more programs from big-name conferences this week.

Quinnipiac showed last year what a mid-major or low-major program can accomplish in this event.

Fay scored 20 points in a first-round upset of Marquette. Quinnipiac also produced a second-round stunner over Miami before falling in the regional semifinals to eventual national champion South Carolina.

Fay followed up that postseason performance by averaging 13.1 points and 6.9 rebounds this season to earn first-team all-Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference honors along with teammate Aryn McClure.

Now she wants to have another big tournament. Plenty of other mid-major or low-major programs want to follow the example Quinnipiac set last year.

"I always say this to any of my friends being recruited — it's not really about the name of the school," Fay said. "I feel like if they've never heard of it or if it's



MICHAEL AINSWORTH/AP

**Western Kentucky forward Tashia Brown ranks sixth among Division I players with a 22.7 scoring average.**

not a Big 12 or SEC-type school, they automatically think because they're going to a lower conference, that they're not as good."

"But that's definitely not the truth, and I think that's what we're proving here, showing all the other mid-major schools this is possible. You're going to have to work really hard because a lot of times those BCS-type schools have a lot of major players, more athletic players. But that doesn't mean you can't take them down."

Here's a rundown of some other notable players from one-bid leagues who could emerge as NCAA Tournament impact performers.

**Bella Alarie (forward, Princeton):** Next game: Friday vs. Maryland in Raleigh, N.C.

**Notable:** The 6-4 sophomore was the Ivy League player of the year and had 34 rebounds over two games in the league tournament last weekend. She gained valuable experience playing for USA Basketball over the summer and will be a matchup nightmare

for the Terrapins.

**Jill Barta (forward, Gonzaga):** Next game: Saturday at Stanford.

**Notable:** Barta has earned first-team all-West Coast Conference honors three times and was named the league's player of the year this season. The 6-3 junior is averaging 18.8 points and 8.4 rebounds. She scored 32 points as Gonzaga beat San Diego in the WCC championship game.

**Tashia Brown (forward, Western Kentucky):** Next game: Friday vs. Oregon State at Knoxville, Tenn.

**Notable:** This 6-1 senior is a two-time first-team all-Conference USA performer who was named the league's player of the year this season. She averages 22.7 points to rank sixth among all Division I women's players. She scored 30 points in a victory over Missouri and 25 in a loss to Notre Dame.

**Shay Burnett (guard, Elon):** Next game: Friday at North Carolina State.

**Notable:** Burnett, a 5-9 senior, has earned first-team all-Colonial Athletic Association honors each of the last three seasons. This stat-sheet stuffer averages 13.3 points, 7.5 rebounds and 6.5 assists to lead Elon in all three categories.

**Channon Fluker (center, Cal State Northridge):** Next game: Friday at Notre Dame.

**Notable:** This 6-4 junior is a two-time Big West most valuable player. Fluker ranks seventh in Division I rebounding (12.1 per game) and 19th in blocks (2.58). Fluker also averages 18.8 points. She had 24 points, 17 rebounds and six assists as Cal State Northridge upset top-seeded UC Davis 63-55 in the Big West championship game.

**Shakyla Hill (guard, Grambling):** Next game: Friday at Baylor.

**Notable:** Hill became the fourth Division I women's player ever to post a quadruple-double when

she had 15 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals in a Jan. 3 victory over Alabama State. The 5-7 junior averages 17.1 points, 7.5 rebounds, 5.7 assists and 4.9 steals. She ranks second in Division I in steals.

**Kahlia Lawrence (guard, Mercer):** Next game: Saturday at Georgia.

**Notable:** Lawrence is the first three-time Southern Conference player of the year. The 5-8 senior has averaged 19.2 points and 5.1 rebounds while helping Mercer win 27 consecutive games. She averaged 25 points per game in the Southern Conference Tournament, including 29 in the championship game.

**Jessica Lindstrom (guard/forward, Green Bay):** Next game: Friday vs. Minnesota at Eugene, Ore.

**Notable:** Lindstrom averages 15.2 points and 10.5 rebounds per game. The 6-1 senior has 41 career double-doubles. She scored 17 points in a win over Arizona State, 15 points in a victory over Marquette and 14 in a loss to Mississippi State this season.

**Darby Maggard (guard, Belmont):** Next game: Saturday vs. Duke in Athens, Ga.

**Notable:** Maggard sank a tying three-point shot with 4.5 seconds left in regulation to help Belmont win the Ohio Valley Conference championship 63-56 over Tennessee-Martin. The 5-5 junior averages 16.7 points and 5.3 assists for the Bruins, who have 22 straight wins.

**Macey Miller (guard, South Dakota State):** Next game: Friday vs. Villanova in South Bend, Ind.

**Notable:** Miller is the Summit League's player of the year. The 6-foot junior averages 18.1 points, 5.7 rebounds and 3.2 assists per game. She is shooting 46.2 percent from three-point range and scored 16 points in a victory over North Carolina State.

## Scoreboard

### Women's NCAA Tournament

**ALBANY REGIONAL**  
First Round  
Friday, March 16  
at Columbia, S.C.  
California (21-10) vs. Virginia (18-13)  
South Carolina (26-2) vs. N.C. A&T (23-8)

**Saturday, March 17**  
at Storrs, Conn.  
UConn (32-0) vs. Saint Francis (Pa.) (24-9)  
Miami (21-10) vs. Quinnipiac (27-5)  
at Athens, Ga.  
Duke (22-8) vs. Belmont (31-3)  
Georgia (25-6) vs. Mercer (30-2)  
at Tallahassee, Fla.  
Florida State (25-6) vs. Little Rock (23-9)  
South Florida (26-7) vs. Buffalo (27-5)

**SPOKANE REGIONAL**  
First Round  
Friday, March 16  
at Notre Dame, Ind.  
Notre Dame (29-3) vs. Cal State Northridge (19-15)  
South Dakota State (26-6) vs. Villanova (22-8)

**at College Station, Texas**  
DePaul (26-7) vs. Oklahoma (16-14)  
Texas A&M (22-8) vs. DePaul (26-7)  
at Eugene, Ore.  
Green Bay (29-3) vs. Minnesota (23-8)  
Oregon (30-4) vs. Seattle (18-14)

**Saturday, March 17**  
at Columbus, Ohio  
LSU (19-9) vs. Central Michigan (28-4)

**Ohio State (27-6) vs. George Washington (19-13)**

**KANSAS CITY REGIONAL**  
First Round  
Friday, March 16  
at Raleigh, N.C.  
Maryland (25-7) vs. Princeton (24-5)  
NC State (24-8) vs. Elon (25-7)

**Saturday, March 17**  
at Starkville, Miss.  
Syracuse (22-8) vs. Oklahoma State (20-10)  
Mississippi State (32-1) vs. Nicholls (19-13)

**at Los Angeles**  
Iowa (24-7) vs. American (26-6)  
UCLA (24-7) vs. Creighton (18-12)  
at Austin, Texas  
Arizona (20-10) vs. Nebraska (21-10)

**Texas (26-6) vs. Maine (23-9)**

**LEXINGTON REGIONAL**  
First Round  
Friday, March 16  
at Louisville, Ky.  
Louisville (32-3) vs. Boise State (23-9)

**Marquette (23-9) vs. Dayton (23-6)**  
at Knoxville, Tenn.  
Oregon State (23-7) vs. Western Kentucky (24-8)

**Tennessee (24-7) vs. Liberty (24-9)**  
at Waco, Texas  
Michigan (22-9) vs. Northern Colorado (26-6)

**Baylor (31-1) vs. Grambling State (19-13)**

**Saturday, March 17**  
at Stanford, Calif.  
Missouri (24-7) vs. Florida Gulf Coast (30-4)

**Stanford (22-10) vs. Gonzaga (27-5)**

## NIT roundup

# Snubbed Saint Mary's rolls past SE Louisiana

Associated Press

MORAGA, Calif. — Jock Landale scored 26 points on 11-for-15 shooting for his 20th 20-plus game of the season and Saint Mary's made 13 three-pointers in an 89-45 rout of Southeastern Louisiana on Tuesday night in an NIT opener.

Landale scored 11 points in the first quarter as Saint Mary's opened a 19-8 lead and he had three points in a 12-0 run at the start of the second quarter for a 31-11 advantage. The Gaels, a top seed, led by at least 18 points the rest of the way and by as many as 44. They will play the winner of Wednesday's Washington-Boise State game in the second round.

Jordan Ford added 19 points with three three-pointers for Saint Mary's (29-5) and Calvin Hermanson scored all 7 of his points in the first half with five 3-pointers. The Gaels matched their program-record win total from last season.

Jordan Capps led SE Louisiana (22-12),

an eight-seed, with 15 of his 19 points in the second half. The Lions were held to 35 percent shooting.

**UNC 103, UNC Asheville 98 (2OT):** Jordan McLaughlin had 26 points and 13 assists, Nick Rakocic added 24 points with 19 rebounds and short-handed host USC needed two overtimes.

McLaughlin was fouled on a drive with 25.1 seconds left in regulation and made two free throws to tie it at 70 after the Trojans had made just five of their first 16. UNC Asheville dribbled down the clock, but Ahmad Thomas' contested jumper was short.

**Oregon 99, Rider 86:** Freshman Victor Bailey Jr. hit seven of eight three-pointers and scored 23 points, both career bests, and host Oregon rallied in the fourth quarter.

Payton Pritchard added scored 23 points and Elijah Brown added 18 for the Ducks (23-12), a three-seed that had no problem with one of the NIT experimental rules. The three-point line was moved back 20

inches to match the international line and the Ducks were 14-for-25 from distance.

**Oklahoma State 80, FGCU 68:** Jeffrey Carroll scored 12 of his 18 points at the free-throw line and host Oklahoma State (20-14) made 32 at the stripe.

**Notre Dame 84, Hampton 63:** Martin Geben and T.J. Gibbs combined for 35 points, Bonzie Colson had a double-double and Notre Dame cruised (21-14).

**Middle Tennessee 91, Vermont 64:** Giddy Potts made six three-pointers and scored 25 points, Nick King had 16 points and 12 rebounds for his 11th double-double of the season and host Middle Tennessee (25-7) used an 18-0 third-quarter run to roll past Vermont.

**Western Kentucky 79, Boston College 62:** Justin Johnson had his fifth-straight double-double with 19 points and 12 rebounds to lead host Western Kentucky (25-10).

**Louisville 66, Northern Kentucky 58:** Deng Adel had 20 points, including 16 dur-



BYRON TERRY, THE OKLAHOMAN/AP

Oklahoma State's Kendall Smith, right, looks to pass as Florida Gulf Coast's Brandon Goodwin defends during a first-round NIT game on Tuesday.

ing host Louisville's hot-shooting second half that rallied the Cardinals (21-13).

**Baylor 80, Wagner 59:** Manu Lecomte had no problems with the NIT's experimental three-point line. The Bears' eighth and scoring 24 points to lead host Baylor.



## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Jackrabbits' Daum tops mid-major notables

By STEVE MEGAREE

Associated Press

South Dakota State forward Mike Daum already has experienced the NCAA Tournament twice before. Now he wants to discover what it feels like to win on college basketball's biggest stage.

Daum, one of the nation's most prolific scorers, heads a list of several notable players from one-bid leagues relishing their chance at the spotlight this week. South Dakota State (28-6) is the No. 12 seed in the West Region and faces Ohio State (24-8) on Thursday in Boise, Idaho.

"Being able to say I won a game in March Madness would be something I've dreamed about ever since I was a little kid," Daum said. "It would be a blessing to be able to do this."

Daum's had a couple of shots before. He scored 16 points in a 79-74 NCAA Tournament loss to Maryland two years ago and had 17 points last season when South Dakota State fell 66-46 in the opening round to Gonzaga.

Those games provided a rare national showcase for Daum, one of the nation's top players from outside the major conferences.

After redshirting his first year at South Dakota State, Daum has developed into a two-time Summit League player of the year. The 6-foot-9-junior is one of five finalists for the Karl Malone Award given annually to the nation's top power forward.

Daum ranks sixth among all



AUSTIN ANTHONY, DAILY NEWS/AP

**Marshall guard Jon Elmore, right, shoots while under pressure from Western Kentucky guard Tavon Hollingsworth. Elmore ranks eighth in Division I scoring, averaging 22.8 points per game.**

Division I players in scoring (23.8) and 14th in rebounding (10.4) this season. He's ready to apply the lessons learned from South Dakota State's last two NCAA appearances while trying to lead the Jackrabbits beyond the first round.

"The size and length is the biggest noticeable aspect of other (NCAA Tournament) teams," Daum said. "We don't have a lot of guys who are 7-footers or 6-9 with 7-foot wingspans in the Summit League, guys who are unbelievable athletes. When we get into the NCAA Tournament, you play a team with a full roster of guys like that. For us, it's just mentally

preparing for things like that."

Here's a rundown of some other potential NCAA Tournament impact performers from one-bid leagues:

**Joe Chealey (guard, College of Charleston):** Next game: Friday vs. Auburn at South Dakota.

**Notable:** Chealey scored 32 points as Charleston erased a 17-point, second-half deficit to beat Northeastern 83-76 in overtime in the Colonial Athletic Association championship game. The 6-4 senior has been named first-team all-CAA two straight years. He has 18.5 points per game.

**Clayton Custer (guard, Loyola of Chicago):** Next game: Thurs-

day vs. Miami in Dallas.

**Notable:** Custer was named the Missouri Valley Conference's player of the year. The 6-1 junior has 13.4 points and 4.3 assists per game. He has helped Loyola earn its first NCAA berth since 1985. Custer was part of the 2014-15 Iowa State team that made the NCAA field, but he didn't play in the NCAA Tournament.

**Jon Elmore (guard, Marshall):** Next game: Friday vs. Wichita State in San Diego.

**Notable:** This 6-3 junior has two triple-doubles and ranks eighth in Division I in scoring (22.8) and seventh in assists (6.9). He has led Conference USA in scoring and assists each of the last two seasons. Elmore also has 6 rebounds per game. He could become the first Division I player to average at least 22 points, 6 rebounds and 6 assists in a season since Memphis' Penny Hardaway in 1992-93.

**Demontre Jefferson (guard, Texas Southern):** Next game: Wednesday vs. North Carolina Central in Dayton, Ohio.

**Notable:** This 5-7 dynamo averages 23.4 points and 4.5 assists. He served a five-game suspension but returned to lead Texas Southern to a Southwest Athletic Conference Tournament title. He scored 29 against TCU, 24 each against Kansas and Baylor, 22 against Clemson and 20 against Gonzaga.

**Jermier Jones (forward, New Mexico State):** Next game: Friday vs. Clemson in San Diego.

**Notable:** The Western Athletic Conference player of the year averages 13.1 rebounds to rank second among all Division I players. The 6-5 senior also has 11.1 points per game. He has five double-doubles in his last six games. He has reached the 20-rebound mark five times in his last 11 contests.

**Jairus Lyles (guard, Maryland-Baltimore County):** Next game: Friday vs. Virginia in Charlotte, N.C.

**Notable:** This 6-foot-2 graduate student sank a tiebreaking three-pointer with less than a second left as UMBC upset second Vermont in the America East championship. Lyles has averaged 20.2 points to earn first-team all-America East honors.

**Garrison Mathews (guard, Lipscomb):** Next game: Friday vs. North Carolina in Charlotte.

**Notable:** Mathews helped Lipscomb earn its first NCAA invitation by leading the Atlantic Sun with 22.1 points per game. The 6-5 junior scored 33 points in the Atlantic Sun championship game. He's scored at least 23 points in seven of his last 10 games.

**D'Marcus Simonds (guard, Georgia State):** Next game: Friday vs. Cincinnati in Nashville, Tenn.

**Notable:** Simonds leads the Sun Belt in scoring (21.1) and is the league's player of the year. The 6-3 sophomore scored 17 points as Georgia State beat Texas Arlington 74-61 in the Sun Belt championship game.

## Miller Time: Coach lands in spotlight

## Virginia's Hunter out for Tournament

By JOEY MCCREARY

Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — UNC Greensboro's Wes Miller is the youngest head coach in the NCAA Tournament. He's certainly not lacking in experience.

The 35-year-old is in his seventh season, and is having to tune out the distraction of hearing his name mentioned for bigger openings as he prepares the Spartans for their first tournament appearance since 2001.

His success almost surely means Miller will draw attention from higher-profile schools looking to fill vacancies this offseason. He said the possibility is "flattering" because "it means you might be doing something pretty good," but insists his focus is on the Spartans.

"It's humorous a little bit, because a handful of years ago, I was getting asked if I was going to keep my job," Miller said. "So it's amazing how quickly things can change, but I've drowned it out. All I'm thinking about is this team. I have a tremendous job, so I'm not looking for any other one. And it'd be hard for me to imagine not coaching (current players) Francis Alonso ... and the rest of our bunch that will be returning next year."

"So it's nothing I'm thinking about or my family's thinking about."

Miller's NCAA Tournament coaching debut comes Thursday when No. 13 seed

UNC Greensboro (27-7) faces fourth-seeded Gonzaga (30-4) in a West Regional match-up in Boise, Idaho.

Since taking over as an interim coach at age 28 in 2011, the former team captain at North Carolina has led the Spartans to 112-109 record, three Southern Conference regular-season titles, a spot in last year's NIT, and now this.

Athletic director Kim Record, whose strong Atlantic Coast Conference ties include positions at Florida State and Virginia, acknowledged that "at some point, there may be an opportunity at a bigger school that makes sense for him. I hope that's not this year."

"I want to be sitting at a beach in a rocking chair when I'm 80 years old, watching March Madness, going, 'I hired that guy — when he was 28 years old,'" Record said.

Record said Miller has matured quite a bit since he was promoted to temporarily take over for Mike Dement midway through the 2011-12 season and earned the permanent job after winning the SoCon regular-season title. While Miller hasn't lost any of his trademark intensity, the AD said he's done a better job of keeping it under control.

"I think right away, when I got the job at 28, I might have thought I knew what I was doing, but now I realize I had no idea," Miller said. "The difference between now and then is, I still have no idea — but I'm aware of it. ... We failed quite a bit, and I think some of the trials and tribulations in the early years, it's kind of what's allowed us to grow. We've learned from that."

While the Gonzaga game will undoubtedly be his biggest as a coach, it wasn't that long ago that he was playing in big games

as a guard for the Tar Heels. The 5-foot-11 guard was on the national title team in 2005 and captained the 2007 team that reached a regional final.

Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams described Miller as a "tough, tough kid" who told him during their first meeting that he wanted to be a coach.

"And I said you should come here, because the things we do will help you, and I'll always remember that you want to be a coach and talk to you in those terms," Williams said.

He even coaches his family members: Miller's younger brother Walker, a walk-on freshman forward at UNC, was in grade school when Wes played for the Tar Heels. He said Wes has "coached me a little bit through the Carolina experience, which has been cool."

UNC Greensboro has the nation's sixth-best scoring defense, allowing an average of 62.4 points, and played top overall seed Virginia tough in the opener before losing by 12. A few weeks later, UNC shocked North Carolina State 81-76 and video of Miller and the Spartans dancing in the locker room went viral on social media.

An upset of Gonzaga just might prompt an even wider celebration.

"No, 1, we're going to enjoy it. I don't want to be the Fun Police," Miller said. "This is a really special thing we're experiencing right now, and I think it'll only get more special. ... I want the guys to enjoy it, because it's a life experience, but at the same time, it's more attention and more noise than we've ever gotten at this program. We've got to try to drown that noise out and stay locked in."

Top-ranked and top-seeded Virginia will be without forward DeAndre Hunter, the ACC's sixth man of the year, for the NCAA Tournament because of a broken left wrist.

The school announced Tuesday that Hunter, a 6-foot-7 swingman who can also play guard, suffered the injury during the ACC Tournament, but did not say how. He will have surgery Monday and miss 10 to 12 weeks.

Hunter, a redshirt freshman, sat out last season, but made an immediate impact once he joined coach Tony Bennett's lineup. He averaged 9.2 points and 3.5 rebounds in 33 games, reached double figures 16 times and led the Cavaliers in scoring on six occasions. His scoring high was 23 points in his fourth game, a 75-53 victory over Monmouth on Nov. 19. He recorded 14 points and 10 rebounds in a 66-37 victory at Pittsburgh on Feb. 24.

Hunter also had several big moments for Virginia (31-2) late in the year. He banked in a buzzer-beating three-pointer at Louisville on March 7 to cap an improbable comeback in a 67-66 victory, and then made several critical free-throw throws in the final minutes of the ACC title game as Virginia held off North Carolina, 71-63.

The Cavaliers, the top seed in the South Region, open NCAA Tournament play Friday night against UMBC in Charlotte, N.C. This is the second straight year they have lost a key player late in the season.

— Associated Press



Miller

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Bonnies bounce Bruins

By JOE KAY  
Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — The basketball was still high in the air — flung to start the celebration — when the buzzer sounded and the Bonnies' long-awaited March celebration commenced. Players chest-bumped on court. Coach Mark Schmidt jumped and waved his arms.

The crowd at the University of Dayton Arena — a place where St. Bonaventure usually is booed — got caught up in the moment, too. And why not? It had been 48 years since anyone saw something like this out of St. Bonaventure.

Courtney Stockard returned from a hamstring injury and scored 26 points, and Jaylen Adams hit a jumper and three free throws in the final minute Tuesday night, rallying the Bonnies to a 65-58 victory over UCLA and their first NCAA Tournament victory since 1970.

At long last, it was time to party in March.

"It can't get better," Schmidt said. They'll have more chances. The 11th-seeded Bonnies (26-7) will play sixth-seeded Florida (20-12) in Dallas on Thursday night in the East region. They did interviews, showered and headed for a flight to their next destination.

"Florida's got four or five days on us, so we'll be watching tape on the plane," Schmidt said. "We've got to do a 2 a.m. flight, but it couldn't be a better flight."

St. Bonaventure set a school re-



JOHN MINICHELL/AP

**Three UCLA defenders can only watch as St. Bonaventure's LaDarien Griffin dunks during the first half on Tuesday.**

cord with its 26th win. Stockard got the Bonnies in position for the drought-busting victory by leading a late 12-0 run. The Bonnies lack depth and were glad to get Stockard back from the hamstring injury. He's scored 21, 31, 22, 19 and 26 points in the past five games.

"I'm still not 100 percent," Stockard said, "but I'm feeling way better than when I did when I left the Richmond game. So I can't really let an opportunity like this pass."

UCLA (21-12) had trouble making shots against the Bonnies' zone defense and matched its season high with 20 turnovers, a disappointing ending to a season that started with Jalen Hill,

Cody Riley and LiAngelo Ball accused of shoplifting during a trip to China in November. All three were suspended for the season, and Ball left the school.

UCLA's Aaron Holiday led the Pac-12 in scoring but couldn't put his touch on the First Four game. He scored 20 points but had 10 turnovers, including three in the final 29 seconds as the game slipped away.

"I felt like we matched them pretty well," Holiday said. "We just turned the ball over too much."

Adams, the Bonnies' all-time leading scorer, also had a rough night, missing 14 of his first 15 shots, but he closed it out in the final 49 seconds.

## Radford gets first-ever NCAA win

By MITCH STACY  
Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Carlík Jones had a substantial and loud cheering section at University of Dayton Arena, a lot of folks traveling about an hour up Interstate 75 from his Cincinnati hometown to see him play for Radford in a First Four game.

Jones didn't disappoint them. The redshirt freshman guard was the engine that drove the Highlanders, scoring 12 points to go with career highs in rebounds with 11 and assists with seven as Radford beat LIU Brooklyn 71-61 on Tuesday night to get its first-ever NCAA Tournament win.

"It's just big to be able to come back home and perform in front of my family and friends that haven't been able to see me play," Jones said. "And it's just been a good feeling."

Radford didn't play its prettiest game, but the team from rural southwest Virginia will celebrate briefly before heading to Pittsburgh to play No. 1 seed Villanova on Thursday. The Big South champions are making their third tournament appearance and first since 2009.

Ed Polite Jr. had 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Travis Fields Jr. also scored 13 for Radford.

Despite hitting just seven of 23 shots from the floor in the second half, LIU Brooklyn managed to stay within striking distance, even taking the lead briefly early in the second half. The Northeast Conference champion Blackbirds got to within a point with five minutes left, but a 9-1 surge by the Highlanders opened up the lead.

"We remained calm," Polite said. "Basketball is about a game of runs. So we knew they're a good team, so we're going to make shots. So we just had to remain focused and go with the game plan. And that's to pressure them even though they're a fast-paced team and don't give them any easy baskets."



JOHN MINICHELL/AP

**Radford's Carlík Jones drives to the basket between LIU Brooklyn's Joel Hernandez, right, and Zach Coleman during the second half on Tuesday.**

The Blackbirds went without a field goal in the last seven minutes of the game and shot 30.4 percent in the second half. Each team committed 15 turnovers.

"I thought (Radford) did a nice job grinding it out on the offensive end of the floor and taking time off the clock to where we couldn't get moving," LIU Brooklyn coach Derek Kellogg said.

Joshua Agostose scored 16 points for LIU Brooklyn, which is winless in seven trips to the tournament.

The Blackbirds got hot in the NEC Tournament but couldn't sustain it on the big stage, shooting just 38 percent compared to 47.5 percent for Radford.

The Highlanders' defense helped limit LIU Brooklyn's leading scorer, Joel Hernandez, to just eight points.

## Scoreboard

**FIRST FOUR**  
**At Dayton, Ohio**  
**Tuesday, March 13**  
Radford 71, LIU Brooklyn 61  
St. Bonaventure 65, UCLA 58  
**Wednesday, March 14**  
N.C. Central (19-15) vs. Texas Southern (15-19)  
Arizona State (20-11) vs. Syracuse (20-13)

**EAST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
**At Pittsburgh**  
Villanova (30-4) vs. Radford (23-12)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 11:45 p.m. CET, Friday 7:45 a.m. JKT  
Virginia Tech (21-11) vs. Alabama (19-15)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 2:15 a.m. CET, Friday 10:15 a.m. JKT

**At Dallas**  
Texas Tech (24-9) vs. Stephen F. Austin (28-6)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 12:15 a.m. CET, Friday 8:15 a.m. JKT  
Florida (20-12) vs. St. Bonaventure (26-7)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 3:30 a.m. CET, Friday 11 a.m. JKT

**Friday, March 16**  
**At Detroit**  
Purdue (28-5) vs. Cal State Fullerton (20-11)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 5:30 p.m. CET, Saturday 1:30 a.m. JKT  
Kansas (23-11) vs. Butler (20-13)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 8:30 p.m. CET, Saturday 4 a.m. JKT

**At San Diego**  
Wichita State (25-7) vs. Marshall (24-10)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 6 p.m. CET, Saturday 2 a.m. JKT  
West Virginia (24-10) vs. Murray State (26-5)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 8:50 p.m. CET, Saturday 4:50 a.m. JKT

**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
**At Pittsburgh**  
Villanova-Radford winner vs. Virginia Tech-Alabama winner  
**At Dallas**  
Texas Tech-Stephen F. Austin winner vs. Florida-St. Bonaventure winner

**At Detroit**  
Purdue-Cal State Fullerton winner vs. Arkansas-Butler winner  
**At San Diego**  
Wichita State-Marshall winner vs. West Virginia-Murray State winner  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Sunday, March 18**  
**At Boston**

**AFN-Pacific:** Saturday 12:15 p.m. CET, Sunday 8 a.m. JKT  
Villanova-Radford-Virginia Tech-Alabama winner vs. Wichita State-Marshall-West Virginia-Murray State winner  
Purdue-Cal State Fullerton-Arkansas-Butler winner vs. Texas Tech-Stephen F. Austin-Florida-St. Bonaventure winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Sunday, March 25**  
**At Charlotte, N.C.**

**Semifinal winners**  
**SOUTH REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
**At Dallas**  
Tennessee (25-8) vs. Wright State (25-9)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 5:30 p.m. CET, Friday 1:30 a.m. JKT  
Miami (22-9) vs. Loyola of Chicago (26-8)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 8 p.m. CET, Friday 4 a.m. JKT

**At Boise, Idaho**  
Kentucky (24-10) vs. Cincinnati (21-11)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 12:15 p.m. CET, Friday 8 a.m. JKT  
Arizona State (20-11) vs. Buffalo (26-8)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 2:15 a.m. CET, Friday 10:30 a.m. JKT

**Friday, March 16**  
**At Charlotte, N.C.**  
Creighton (21-11) vs. Kansas State (22-11)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 11:45 p.m. CET, Saturday 7:45 a.m. JKT  
Virginia (31-2) vs. UMBG (24-10)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Saturday 2:15 a.m. CET, Saturday 10:15 a.m. JKT

**At Nashville, Tenn.**  
Cincinnati (30-4) vs. Georgia State (24-10)  
Nevada (27-7) vs. Texas (19-14)  
**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 17**  
**At Dallas**  
Tennessee-Wright State winner vs. Miami-Loyola of Chicago winner

**At Boise, Idaho**  
Arizona State winner vs. Kentucky-Davidson winner  
**Sunday, March 18**  
**At Charlotte, N.C.**  
Virginia-UMBG winner vs. Creighton-Kansas State winner  
**At Nashville, Tenn.**  
Cincinnati-Georgia State winner vs. Nevada-Texas winner  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Saturday, March 22**

**At Atlanta**  
Thursday, March 22  
Virginia-Umburg-Creighton-Kansas State winner vs. Arizona-Buffalo-Kentucky-Davidson winner  
Cincinnati-Georgia State-Nevada-Texas winner vs. Tennessee-Wright State-Miami-Loyola of Chicago winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 24**  
Semifinal winners

**At San Diego**  
Friday, March 23  
Wichita State vs. San Diego State (22-10)  
**At Boise, Idaho**  
Michigan (28-7) vs. Montana (26-7)  
**At Boise, Idaho**  
Gonzaga (30-4) vs. UNC Greensboro (27-7)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 6 p.m. CET, Friday 2 a.m. JKT  
Ohio State (24-8) vs. South Dakota State (28-5)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 8:50 p.m. CET, Friday 4:50 a.m. JKT

**Friday, March 16**  
**At Charlotte, N.C.**  
Texas A&M (29-12) vs. Providence (21-13)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 5 p.m. CET, Saturday 1 a.m. JKT  
North Carolina (25-10) vs. Lipscomb (23-9)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 7:30 p.m. CET, Saturday 3:30 a.m. JKT

**At Nashville, Tenn.**  
Xavier (28-5) vs. N.C. Central-Texas Southern winner  
Missouri (20-12) vs. Florida State (20-11)  
**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
**At Wichita, Kan.**  
Michigan-Montana winner vs. Houston-San Diego State winner  
**At Boise, Idaho**  
Gonzaga-UIC Greensboro winner vs. Ohio State-South Dakota State winner  
**Sunday, March 18**  
North Carolina-Lipscomb winner vs. Texas A&M-Providence winner  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Thursday, March 22**  
Xavier-N.C. Central-Texas Southern winner vs. Missouri-Florida State winner  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Thursday, March 22**  
Xavier-N.C. Central-Texas Southern winner vs. Gonzaga-UNC Greensboro-Ohio State-South Dakota State winner  
Providence winner vs. Michigan-Montana-Houston-San Diego State winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 24**  
Semifinal winners

**FINAL FOUR**  
**At the Alamodome**  
**San Antonio**  
**National Semifinals**  
**Monday, March 31**  
South champion vs. West champion  
East champion vs. Midwest champion  
**National Championship**  
**Monday, April 2**  
Semifinal winners

## MIDWEST REGIONAL

**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
**At Pittsburgh**  
Rhode Island (25-7) vs. Oklahoma (18-13)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 5 p.m. CET, Friday 1 a.m. JKT  
Duke (26-7) vs. Iowa (20-13)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 7:30 p.m. CET, Friday 3:30 a.m. JKT

**At Wichita, Kan.**  
Kansas (27-7) vs. Pennsylvania (24-8)  
Seton Hall (21-11) vs. N.C. State (21-11)  
**Friday, March 16**  
**At Detroit**  
Michigan State (29-4) vs. Bucknell (25-9)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 12:15 p.m. CET, Saturday 8 a.m. JKT  
TCU (21-11) vs. Arizona State-Syracuse winner

**At San Diego**  
Auburn (25-7) vs. College of Charleston (26-7)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Saturday 12:15 a.m. CET, Saturday 8:15 a.m. JKT  
Clemson (23-9) vs. New Mexico State (28-5)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Saturday 2:30 a.m. CET, Saturday 10:30 a.m. JKT

**Second Round**  
**Sunday, March 17**  
**At Pittsburgh**  
Duke-Iowa winner vs. Rhode Island-Oklahoma winner  
**At Wichita, Kan.**  
Kansas-Pennsylvania winner vs. Seton Hall-N.C. State winner  
**Sunday, March 18**  
**At Detroit**  
Michigan State-Bucknell winner vs. TCU-Arizona State-Syracuse winner  
**At San Diego**  
Auburn-College of Charleston winner vs. Clemson-New Mexico State winner  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 23**  
Kansas-Pennsylvania-Seton Hall-N.C. State winner vs. Auburn-College of Charleston-Clemson-New Mexico State winner  
Michigan State-Bucknell-TCU-Arizona State-Rhode Island-Oklahoma winner vs. Michigan State-Bucknell-TCU-Arizona State-Rhode Island-Oklahoma winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Sunday, March 25**  
Semifinal winners

**WEST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 15**  
**At Wichita, Kan.**  
Houston (26-7) vs. San Diego State (22-10)  
**At Boise, Idaho**  
Michigan (28-7) vs. Montana (26-7)  
Gonzaga (30-4) vs. UNC Greensboro (27-7)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 6 p.m. CET, Friday 2 a.m. JKT  
Ohio State (24-8) vs. South Dakota State (28-5)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Thursday 8:50 p.m. CET, Friday 4:50 a.m. JKT

**Friday, March 16**  
**At Charlotte, N.C.**  
Texas A&M (29-12) vs. Providence (21-13)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 5 p.m. CET, Saturday 1 a.m. JKT  
North Carolina (25-10) vs. Lipscomb (23-9)  
**AFN-Pacific:** Friday 7:30 p.m. CET, Saturday 3:30 a.m. JKT

**At Nashville, Tenn.**  
Xavier (28-5) vs. N.C. Central-Texas Southern winner  
Missouri (20-12) vs. Florida State (20-11)  
**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 17**  
**At Wichita, Kan.**  
Michigan-Montana winner vs. Houston-San Diego State winner  
**At Boise, Idaho**  
Gonzaga-UIC Greensboro winner vs. Ohio State-South Dakota State winner  
**Sunday, March 18**  
North Carolina-Lipscomb winner vs. Texas A&M-Providence winner  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Thursday, March 22**  
Xavier-N.C. Central-Texas Southern winner vs. Missouri-Florida State winner  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Thursday, March 22**  
Xavier-N.C. Central-Texas Southern winner vs. Gonzaga-UNC Greensboro-Ohio State-South Dakota State winner  
Providence winner vs. Michigan-Montana-Houston-San Diego State winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 24**  
Semifinal winners

**FINAL FOUR**  
**At the Alamodome**  
**San Antonio**  
**National Semifinals**  
**Monday, March 31**  
South champion vs. West champion  
East champion vs. Midwest champion  
**National Championship**  
**Monday, April 2**  
Semifinal winners

## NCAA TOURNAMENT



GERRY BROOME/AP

North Carolina's Joel Berry II, left, drives against Wake Forest during the first half of their March 6 game in Chapel Hill, N.C.

## Run: Berry's determined edge fuels Heels' success

### FROM BACK PAGE

also become the first to reach three straight finals since Kentucky from 1996-98.

Berry is UNC's No. 2 scorer (17.1 points), its toughest competitor and a Cousy Award finalist as the nation's top point guard.

The 6-foot native of Apopka, Fla., isn't an elite NBA prospect blessed with jump-out-of-the-gym athleticism. Rather, he's a veteran floor leader who doesn't shy away from contact and ranks among the tradition-rich program's top 15 in both career scoring and assists.

More importantly, he plays with a determined edge that UNC (25-10) needs as it leans on a small-ball lineup — though it also led to an embarrassing preseason incident when Berry broke his hand by punching a door after losing a video game.

That edge fuels everything he does, even launching a shot in a tight game.

"If I miss it, I'm going to come back and shoot that same shot every single time," Berry said. "And if I make it, of course I'm going to come back and shoot it."

"There are a lot of people who think about what's going to happen if they don't hit the shot. And I never think about that because there are a lot of people who would love to be in my position to take that shot. A lot of people don't have the heart to be able to step up in those moments, to even try to attempt that shot."

That mentality has worked well for him twice on the game's biggest stage.

In 2016, he scored 20 points with four three-pointers in the title-game loss to Villanova despite suffering a left-foot injury that had him on crutches and wearing a boot when he returned to campus the next day.

Last April, despite playing on two sprained ankles that hindered him throughout the tournament, Berry scored 22 points and four more threes as UNC beat

Gonzaga for the title.

That made him only the seventh player to score at least 20 points in back-to-back NCAA title games, a list that includes San Francisco's Bill Russell (1955-56), UCLA's Lew Alcindor (1967-69) and UCLA's Bill Walton — the last before Berry in 1972-73.

"He is tough and he's been that way ever since I've known him," said senior Grayson Allen of rival Duke, a fellow Florida native who first played against Berry in the eighth grade. "If you go at him, he comes right back."

"He's the type of guy where if he makes a mistake on the next play, he's coming at you to get it right back."

Berry's edge is always there, and sometimes it rises to the surface.

Like it did during the second half of the Tar Heels' win against Allen's Blue Devils in Friday's Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament semifinals. Berry and Duke freshman Gary Trent Jr. both got their hands on a rebound and refused to let go before Trent tried to push free as referees whistled for a jump ball.

Berry immediately turned back for a defiant staredown with Trent — who has about 6 inches and 15 pounds on Berry — and had a few words for Trent as officials stepped in.

There will likely be a couple more of those moments in the NCAA Tournament. And Berry isn't about to back down, not with his college career down to its final games.

"I just hate when people count us out because we don't have the so-called NBA talent on our team," Berry said. "And that irks me so much because it's not about having NBA talent. It's about having guys who are coming together to compete to get one goal: and that's to win a national championship. And if you have that, that takes care of everything else."

AP Sports Writer Mike Fitzpatrick in New York contributed to this report.

# Seniors playing pivotal roles for highest seeds

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina's Joel Berry II — last year's Final Four most outstanding player for the reigning national champions — is one of several seniors set to play pivotal roles for some of the NCAA Tournament favorites.

There are veterans in pivotal roles sprinkled amid all the one-and-done talent that grabs the headlines.

Here's a look at some of those seniors on high-seeded teams:

**Grayson Allen, Duke:** Look, the 6-foot-5 guard is college basketball's closest thing to a villain with multiple incidents of tripping opponents — along with a hipcheck against rival North Carolina in last weekend's Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament to earn a flagrant foul.

Yet he's also a proven scorer capable of delivering game-changing moments.

He is second on the team in scoring (15.7 points) while shooting nearly 38 percent from behind the arc. He had a career-best 37 points with seven three-pointers in a November win against Michigan State. And he's proven he can come up big in March before as a freshman during Duke's 2015 title run.

**Trevon Bluiett, Xavier:** The 6-6 guard guided Xavier to its first No. 1 seed atop the West Regional.

Bluiett averaged a team-best 19.5 points while shooting 42 percent from three-point range and 86 percent from the foul line. He helped the Musketeers win the Big East regular-season race and they enter the tournament aiming to top last year's surprise run to the Elite Eight.

**Jevon Carter, West Virginia:** The Cousy Award finalist to be honored as the nation's top point guard does it all for the Mountaineers, the No. 5 seed in the East.

The two-time Big 12 defensive player of the year finished fourth in the league in scoring (17.0), third in assists (6.0) and tops in steals (2.9). He averaged 17.3 points and 8.0 assists in three Big 12 Tournament games and led West Virginia to its third straight berth in the title game.

**Gary Clark, Cincinnati:** The 6-8 forward works both ends of the court for the American Athletic Conference champion Bearcats, the No. 2 seed in the South Regional.

He averages a team-best 13 points and 8.5 rebounds while shooting 52 percent from the floor and 43 percent from three-point range. That was enough to earn plenty of hardware from the AAC as its overall player of the year and its defensive player of the year while also claiming its sports-



ORLIN WAGNER/AP

West Virginia guard Jevon Carter, right, shoots against Texas Tech in the Big 12 tournament.

manship award.

**Devonte' Graham, Kansas:** Like Berry and Carter, Graham is a Cousy finalist for the Jayhawks, the Midwest's top seed.

The Big 12 player of the year has Kansas on a roll by winning eight of nine to sweep the Big 12 regular-season and tournament titles. He averaged 17.3 points for the season, including averages of 14.3 points and 10 assists in the league tournament.

And he has a little incentive: The Raleigh, N.C., native will face his hometown team this weekend if Kansas and North Carolina State win their openers.

**Isaac Haas, Purdue:** Here's a throwback to the days when traditional big men worked exclusively in the paint.

The 7-foot-2, 290-pound Haas is the No. 2 scorer (14.9 points) and rebounder (5.6) for the Boilermakers, the No. 2 seed in the East Region. He also shoots 62 percent from the field and 76 percent from the foul line.

Purdue has a wealth of shooters and ranks second nationally in three-point percentage (.420), so it's up to Haas to provide the reliable interior production.

AP Sports Writer Joedy McCreary contributed to this report.



PHILAN M. EISENHACK/AP

Cincinnati forward Gary Clark, left, goes up for a shot in front of SMU forward Ethan Chargois during their quarterfinal game of the American Athletic Conference tournament on March 9, in Orlando, Fla.



## SPORTS



## Triple time

Pastrnak's hat trick rallies Bruins, stuns Hurricanes » **NHL, Page 25**

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

BERRY'S  
LAST RUN

North Carolina senior ready to take big shot

By Aaron Beard  
Associated Press

**J**oel Berry II is ready to take any big shot North Carolina needs in his final NCAA Tournament.

The senior was last year's most outstanding player at the Final Four after helping the Tar Heels win the national championship that had painfully eluded them in 2016. Now the first player in more than four decades to score 20 points in consecutive national title games wants one more deep run.

**"I know I've done a lot for this program and I know I've put a lot into this program. But I want to leave on a good note."**

**Joel Berry II**  
North Carolina  
senior guard

"I think this year for me it's just about leaving a legacy," Berry said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I know I've done a lot for this program and I know I've put a lot into this program. But I want to leave on a good note. I don't want people for their last thought to be that, 'Well you know, they won the championship in 2017, and that was pretty much it.'"

Berry and the Tar Heels, the No. 2 seed in the West Region, earned a home-state NCAA opener against 15-seed Lipscomb on Friday in Charlotte. They are trying to join Duke (1991-92) and Florida (2006-07) as the only repeat champions since UCLA's seven straight from 1967-73. They can

**SEE RUN ON PAGE 31**

## Inside:

- Make sure to watch these seniors, Page 31
- St. Bonaventure gets first tournament victory since 1970, Page 30
- UNC Greensboro's Miller on radar of bigger programs, Page 29



GERRY BROOME/AP

North Carolina's Joel Berry II wants to make a deep run in his final appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Westbrook notches 100th triple-double

**NBA, Page 27**

Packers release Nelson after 10 seasons

**NFL, Page 26**



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